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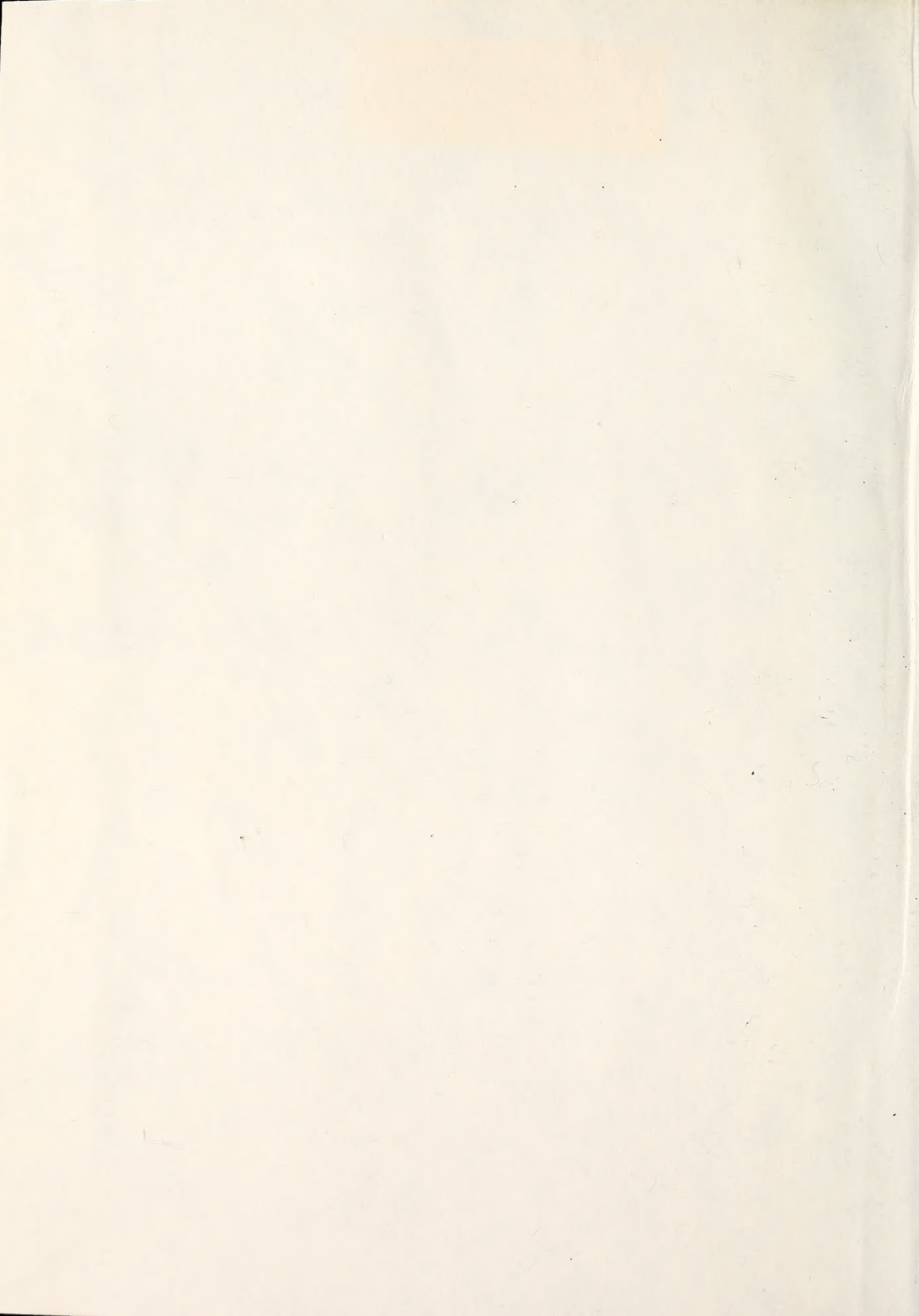
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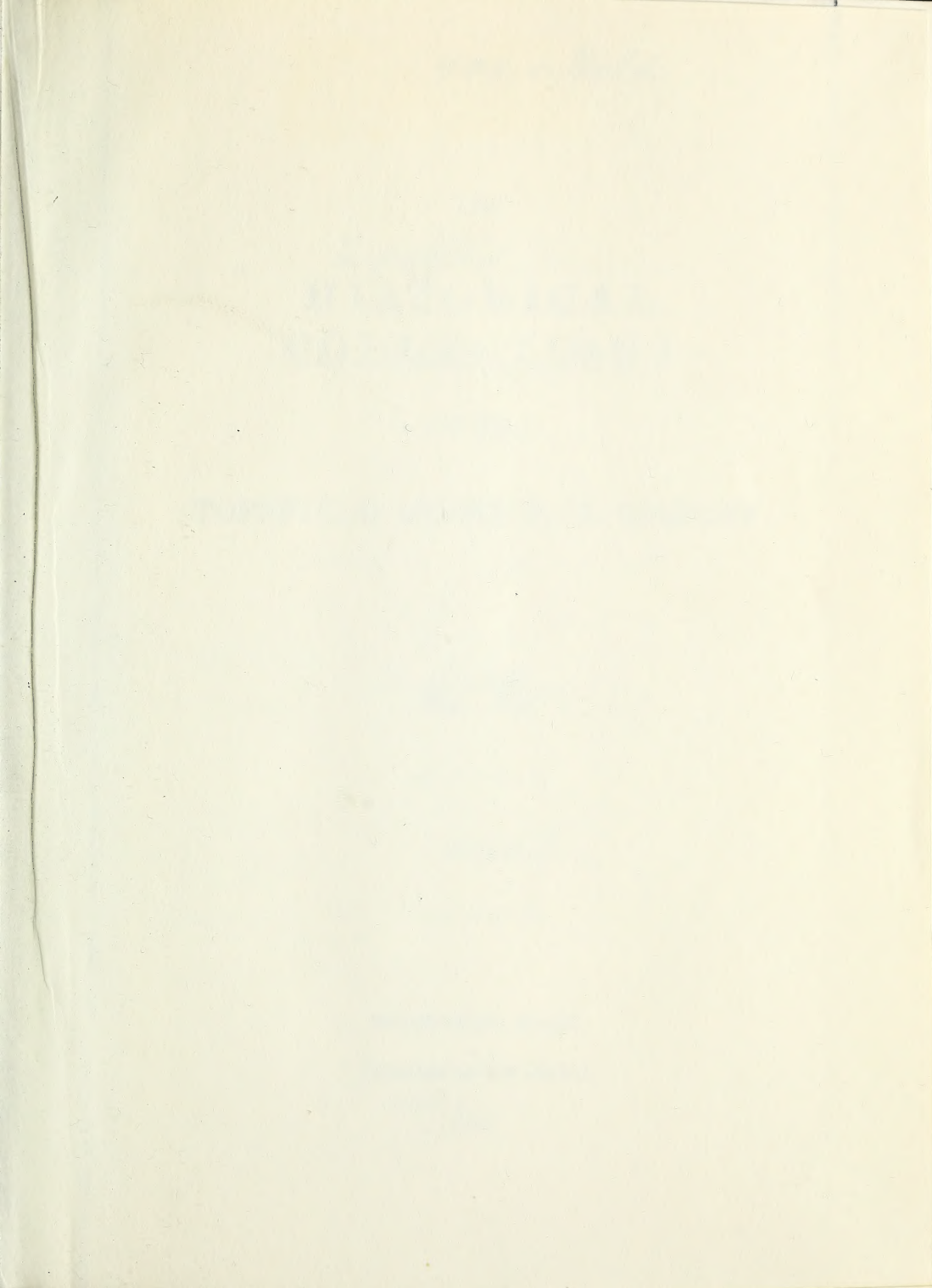


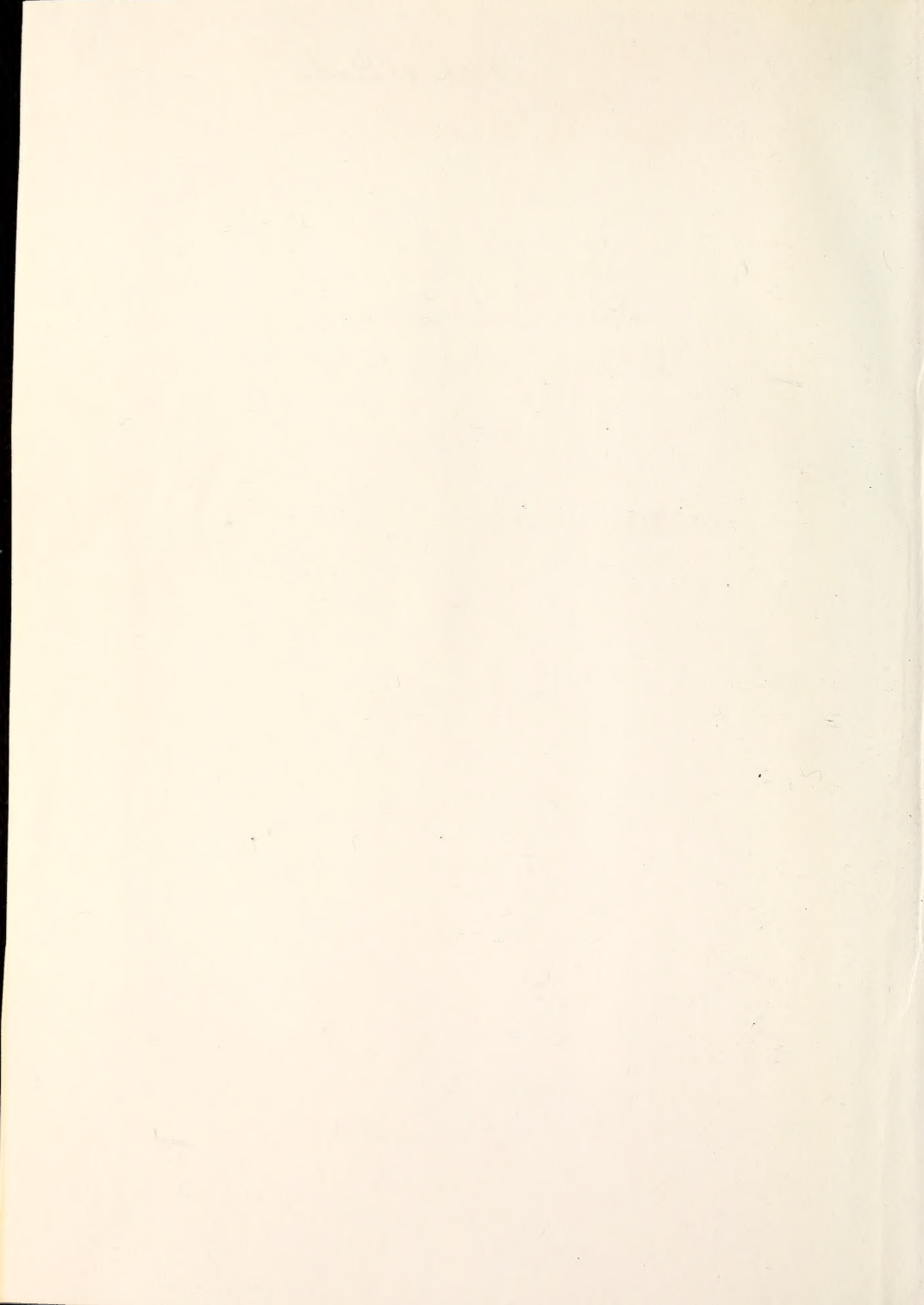
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THE  
*Topsfield*  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS

OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GEORGE FRANCIS HOW

*V. 19-20*

VOL. XIX

*1914-15*

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Published by the Society.

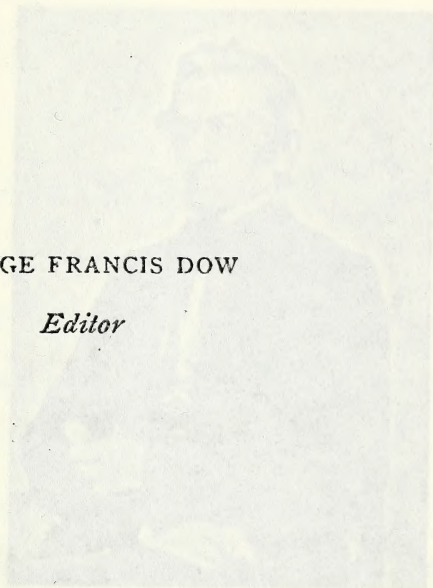
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GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

*Editor*



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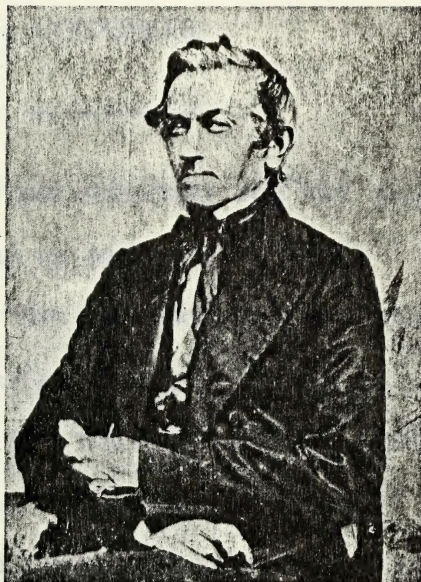
*Topsfield*

MASS.





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EZRA GLAZIER

Founder of the Methodist Episcopal Church  
in Topsfield.

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ENDING JANUAR

ANNUAL REPORT OF

ENDING JANUAR

EARLY RECORDS OF

1739). COPIED

THE MINISTRY OF T

IN TOPSFIELD, BY LEON

EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY

RELATING TO TOPSFIELD

TOPSFIELD VITAL STATISTICS, 1913.

CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS, 1913.

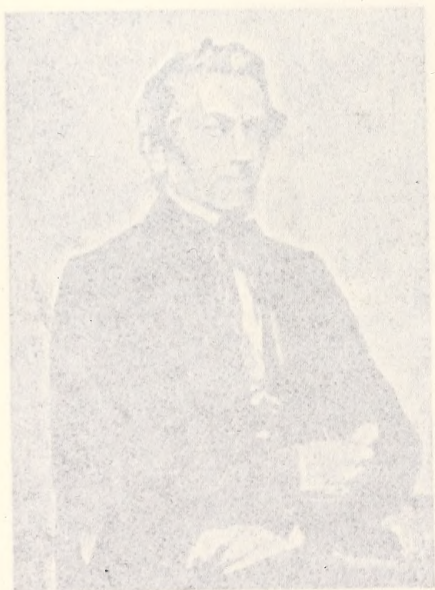
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ESRA GLAZIER  
Founder of the Methodist Episcopal Church  
in Folsom.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

## TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JAN. 12, 1914.

The past year must forever remain a milestone in the history of this Society for, after nearly twenty years of hopeful anticipation, the ancient "Parson Capen House" with its quaint traditions and picturesque architecture has passed into our possession. May its oaken timbers long remain a monument and a shrine for our endeavors. At the time of its erection in 1683 without doubt it was the finest dwelling in the town, and now, after its restoration, following step by step the original lines as shown by timber and mortice, today it stands, the most typical and best preserved of all the 17th century houses remaining in Essex County and probably of those in Eastern Massachusetts.

Soon after acquiring title to the property, it having been made possible to secure additional land through the assistance of a friend of the Society, this same good friend gave the sum of \$1,100, to be expended in restoring the building, a most welcome and timely gift for which the Society should be forever grateful. The work of restoration was done under the direction of your secretary after careful study of the building and much contemporaneous evidence. The finished result speaks for itself.

ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE SECRETARY OF THE  
TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING JAN. 12, 1914.

The past year must forever remain a milestone in the history of this Society for, after nearly twenty years of hopeful anticipation, the ancient "Parson Capen House" with its quaint traditions and picturesque architecture has passed into our possession. May its creaked timbers long remain a monument and a shrine for our endeavors. At the time of its erection in 1683 without doubt it was the finest dwelling in the town, and now, after its restoration, following step by step the original lines as shown by timber and mortar, today it stands the most typical and best preserved of all the 17th century houses remaining in Essex County and probably of those in Eastern Massachusetts.

Soon after acquiring title to the property, it having been made possible to secure additional land through the assistance of a friend of the Society, this same good friend gave the sum of \$1,100, to be expended in restoring the building, a most welcome and timely gift for which the Society should be forever grateful. The work of restoration was done under the direction of your secretary, after careful study of the building and much contemporaneous evidence. The finished result speaks for itself.



Mr. Wm. Sumner Appleton of Boston, the Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities and also a member of this Society, has shown much interest in the building and not only has he made numerous photographs showing the progress of the work, but through his influence Mr. Isham of Providence, the authority on Rhode Island and Connecticut houses, came to Topsfield and spent some time analyzing the structural features of the house. Mr. Appleton also secured the interest and cooperation of the Boston Society of Architects which organization delegated one of its members to visit Topsfield and make measured drawings of the framing at a time when it might be seen to best advantage. It is hoped that this material may be available for an extended architectural and historical account of the house to appear in a future issue of our Historical Collections.

The second story and attic of the Parson Capen House have been attractively fitted up as a home for a custodian of the building, water has been piped to the house from the well, a cesspool has been built, and your Directors have voted to construct a suitable woodshed in the rear.

In fitting up for occupancy the first floor of the house an effort has been made to supply only such furniture and equipment as might have been used in Parson Capen's time. Original furniture of that period is now difficult to obtain and also costly and therefore reproductions of genuine examples have been used so far as necessary. A fine oak chest (possibly a "food hutch") probably made in this vicinity before 1675 has been given by Mr. O. E. Lake and the loom in the kitchen was purchased in Groveland. It is greatly to be desired that other examples of furniture, particularly chairs and wainscot stools may in time be secured.

It has seemed best to your Board of Directors to establish the rule that these rooms be preserved as a memorial to the period of the good Parson and not to permit the introduction of any objects originally used after the year 1750. Of course many gifts of most miscellaneous character will now naturally gravitate to our custody





and the suggestion is offered that the Society should erect in the near future, upon a location in the rear and adjoining to the present parlor, a one story cement building suitably arranged to receive and display such historical and natural objects as may illustrate the growth and cultivation of the town and its people.

By the final distribution of the estate of the late Daniel Cummings of Boston, the benefactor of the Society, the sum of \$648.00 was received, together with eight additional shares of stock in the United Shoe Machinery Company, so that our present holdings amount to 37 shares.

The present membership is 235, two new members having been elected during the past year and nine having died:—Mrs Charles J. Peabody and John H. Towne, both charter members, James M. Marsh, Charles Carmody, Mrs. S. Maria Downing of Lynnfield, Mrs. Allen L. Joslin of Boston, Mrs. Mary C. Fitts of Newfields, N. H. (died in 1912), and Francis H. Lee and George L. Peabody, both of Salem. Volume 17 of the Historical Collections has been completed and distributed and Volume 18 is now in the binders' hands, while a beginning has been made on Volume 19.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

*Secretary.*

---

REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

RECEIPTS.

1913.			
Jan. 1.	Cash balance on hand,		\$129 11
	Assessments (annual dues)	\$83 50	
	Historical Collections sold,	13 00	
	Bindings sold,	20 10	116 60
			<u>\$245 71</u>





## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER.

## PAYMENTS.

A. T. Merrill, printing Vol. 17,	\$55 19	
Interest on \$500, loan,	30 67	
"    Salem Savings Bank,	3 84	
Mrs. Annah B. Jordan, real estate,	20 00	
Recording deed and plan,	3 25	
O. W. Stevens, loom, kettles, etc.,	22 63	
Miscellaneous, printing and postage,	4 00	\$139 58
Balance cash on hand,		106 13
1914.		245 71
Jan. 12. Balance cash on hand,	\$106 13	

## BUILDING FUND.

## RECEIPTS.

1913.			
Jan. 1.	On deposit in Salem Savings Bank,		\$961 26
Mar. 29.	Received on account residue Cummings estate,	\$560 00	
Sept. 27.	"    "    "    "    "	88 00	
Mar. 29.	Received 8 shares United Shoe Mach'y Co. stock,		
	Dividends, 37 "    "    "    "	84 50	
Dec. 8.	Interest on deposits in Salem Savings Bank,	21 23	
Mar. 29.	Gift from an anonymous friend to purchase extra land	100 00	
Mar. 29.	Loan from Naumkeag Trust Co.,	500 00	\$1353 83
			<u>\$2315 09</u>

## PAYMENTS.

1913.			
Mar. 29.	Paid Mrs. Annah B. Jordan for Capen house and		
	1 1-5 acres of land,	\$2080 00	
	Transferred to alterations account,	235 09	\$2315 09
			<u>\$2315 09</u>
1914.			
Jan. 12.	On hand in Building Fund, 37 shares United		
	Shoe M. Co. stock at present market, \$57.	\$2109 00	
	Less outstanding loan from Naumkeag Trust Co.,	500 00	
	Present value of Fund,	<u>\$1609 00</u>	

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

*Treasurer.*





11 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Trustees viz E<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman Eliaser Lake and Jacob Peabody one pound Eight shillings for their Trouble in getting & Laying out the Towns Loan money till this time

12 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould fifty pounds two shillings for his

THE  
EARLY RECORDS OF THE TOWN OF  
TOPSFIELD, MASS.

COPIED BY HENRY F. LONG.

(Continued from Vol. XVII, page 56.)

5 The Town Manifested by a vote y<sup>t</sup> they were willing to Joyn with our Neighbours belonging to Ipswich farms & to be[ar] our proportion According to Estate of all Necessary Charges that shall or may arise in Trying to git our said Neighbours to be Layed to our Town as Township

6 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet Mr Thomas Gould & Mr William Reddington are Chosen a Committe to Joyn with the Committe that our s<sup>d</sup> Neighbours shall Chuse to view y<sup>e</sup> Land in said Ipswich farms & to see where a Line May Conveniently be stated to bring them into our Township

7 The Town Ordred y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Last Loan Money to pay in the Intrest of sd money four pound percent to y<sup>e</sup> Province Treasurer & fourty shillings percent to y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer

8 The Town Allowed to Nathaniel Averill Jun<sup>r</sup> three shillings for straighting y<sup>e</sup> Lines round ye Parsonage

9 The Town Allowed to Zacheus Gould sixteen shillings for four Trees to repair y<sup>e</sup> Town bridge in y<sup>e</sup> year 1728

10 The Town Allowed to John Dwinell Eight shillings for Eight Trees to mend y<sup>e</sup> ways in 1728





11 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Trustees viz En<sup>s</sup> Amos Dorman Eliezer Lake and Jacob Peabody one pound Eight shillings for their Trouble in gitting & Leting out the Towns Loan money till this time voted 1 8 0

12 The Town Allowed To Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould fifty pounds two shillings for his service at y<sup>e</sup> General Court as Representative in y<sup>e</sup> year past voted

Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Abated three pound of y<sup>e</sup> above s<sup>d</sup> sum of fifty pounds two shillings so that there is due to Cap<sup>t</sup> Gould for sd service But fourty seven pound two shillings 47 2 0

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs for voting are Notified & Warned to meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> Tenth Currant at three of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon.

1 To Receive y<sup>e</sup> return or account of Mr Eliezer Lake of fenceing in y<sup>e</sup> parsonage.

2 To see if the Town will doe anything further about the highway by Jacob Reddingtons.

3 To see what the Town will Doe about sending in their Part of the first Loan Money To the Treasurer

4 To allow Bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield June the Seventh 1729

Joshua Towne Constable of Topsfield

Benjamin Towne by order  
of the Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield June y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1729

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Town agreed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Trustees for the Towns first Loan Money:shall Pay in the fourth fift part of y<sup>e</sup> Town first Loan Money to y<sup>e</sup> province Treasurer voted

3 The Town Allowed Thirty seven pound sixteen shillings & Ten pence three farthings to Mr Eliezer Lake for fencing in y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Land

And Ten shillings for his trouble in procuring the Timber to fence in y<sup>e</sup> parsonage voted 0 10 00

4 The Town Allowed Ten pounds to John Perkins &





Jonathan Wildes for building the pound which was Raised in Topsfield this year voted 10 00 00

5 The Town accepted of y<sup>e</sup> return y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen made of Casting the Country Rate that was formerly Committed to Mr Zacheus Gould Constable to Collect: And sd selectmen find sd Rate to amount to one hundred Twenty Nine pounds three shillings & Ten pence: Which is about thirteen shillings More than he was to pay in to y<sup>e</sup> province Treasurer voted

Boston June 5<sup>th</sup> 1729

Received of the Trustees £ 60 000 for the Town of Topsfield Ten pounds Eleven Shillings & three pence Interest for Mr Trear<sup>r</sup> Allen P Ja<sup>s</sup> Allen

Boston July 4<sup>th</sup> 1729

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield fifty one the fourth fift part of the £50 000 Loan by the hand of Mr Daniel Clark:

P Eben<sup>r</sup> Swan in behalf & by order  
of Jer Allen Treasurer

The two Copies Last Entered are True Copies

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Essex ss To Mr Joshua Town Constable of Topsfield Greeting &c In his Majesties Name you are Required to warn all the freeholders & other Inhabitants on y<sup>e</sup> North side of y<sup>e</sup> River in Topsfield to meet at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> Seventeenth Currant at one of the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon

1 To Choose Jurymen for Newbery Court

2 To see if the Town will Provide a Pew for the Reverend Mr John Emerson During the Term of his Ministry among us

3 To see if the Town will Choose a Committee to advise with Ipswich farmers our neighbours and if the Town see Cause to Chuse a Committee to Joyn with our s<sup>d</sup> Neighbours to Prefer a petition to the General Court that our sd neighbours may be Lay<sup>d</sup> to Topsfield

4 To see if the Town will give Liberty for George Cowan to Live in the watch house some time

5 To Allow Bills of Charge. And make timely return of your doings herein to one or more of the selectmen of Tops-

Gentlemen We Cant Give you a More sincere Invitation than





field hereof fail not as you will answer the Contrary at the perril of the Law

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Sept 12: 1729

John Howlett

In obedience to your warrant I have notified Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

and warned the within written Inhabitants David Balch

appear at time & place

Jacob Peabody

Joshua Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

Constable of Topsfield

A True Copy of the warrant & Return thereof

attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The south side of the river being warn<sup>d</sup> & a proper return made the meeting is as followeth

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield Sept<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1729

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Matthew Peabody & Daniel Reddington Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery for and within the County of Essex  
voted

3 The Town agreed to finde a Pew on y<sup>e</sup> right hand of the Coming in at the South Door of the meeting house for y<sup>e</sup> Reverend Mr John Emerson for his wife & family to sit in during the Term of his ministry among us  
voted

4 The Town hath made Choice of Mr William Towne & Mr Daniel Clark to agree with some suteable Person to build a pew for Mr Emerson as above s<sup>d</sup>: and to Give Instructions to s<sup>d</sup> person how to build s<sup>d</sup> pew  
voted

5 The Town having heard the Letter that was sent to us by the Committe for Ipswich farmers Refering to a further Tryal to be Laid to the Township of Topsfield the Town having considered the matter Agreed to send the following Answer to the s<sup>d</sup> farmers viz ffrinds and Neighbours belonging to Ipswich farms: we being Informed by a Committee of yours of your proceeding with y<sup>e</sup> Town of Ipswsch in y<sup>t</sup> affair of being set off to the Township of Topsfield: and we understand y<sup>t</sup> it past in ye Negative and we also understand that several of our adjacent Neighbours are very much against Lying in Township with us: We must say to such if they can provide for themselves better we shall be very glad of it Gentlemen We Cant Give you a More sincere Invitation than





we have done already the matter Lays with you to be well united among yourselves and We stand ready to Receive you we think it not proper to Prefer a petition to the General Court at present: so We Rest your friends & Neighbours of Topsfield

Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett y<sup>e</sup> present Moderator is Chosen to present a Copy of the above written answer to Ipswich farmers viz to y<sup>e</sup> Committe of s<sup>d</sup> farmers voted

6 The Town allowed thirteen shillings to Stephen Johnson for mending seats in the meeting house in may Last past voted 0 13 0

7 The Town allowed three pound sixteen shillings & two pence to mr Joseph Towne for his time & Expenses in Trying To Git a fish Course Cleared up Ipswich River

voted 3 16 2

8 The Town allowed five pound one shilling & two pence to mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne for his time & Expenses in Trying to git a fish Course Cleared up Ipswich river voted 5 1 2

9 The Town allowed two pounds fifteen shillings & two pence to Mr John Hovey for his time & Expences in Trying to git a fish Course Cleared up Ipswich river voted 2 15 2

This May Certifie Whom it May Concern that Although the Town of Topsfield At A Town Meeting May y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1729 did Allow To me the subscriber fifty pounds two shillings for my service as Representative in the year 1728 (And I then Abated three pound of sd sum) And I have since said meeting Received the sum of fifty pound two shillings of the province Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> said service Therefore I Doe by these presents fully Aquitt & Discharge the said Town of Topsfield from the payment of s<sup>d</sup> fifty pounds two shillings to me Notwithstanding the Town Vote: And also I have Delivered three pound of what I received as afore said: unto the Selectmen of Topsfield agreeable to y<sup>e</sup> abatement above mentioned.

Joseph Gould

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Jan<sup>y</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>: 1729-30

This is a True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk  
And Entered by order of the selectmen of Topsfield

Boston 8<sup>th</sup> June 1727 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr John Willdes Constable of Topsfield Sixty seven pounds thirteen shillings & Ten pence in full for my Master Jeremi Allen Treas<sup>r</sup>

P Geo. Rogers





Boston June 4<sup>th</sup> 1728 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr John Willdes Constable of Topsfield by mr Joseph Gould thirty six pounds Eleven shillings & three pence in full

P Jer: Allen Treasurer

The two Receipts Last Entred are True Copies attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Rec<sup>d</sup> John Willdes Constable of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield y<sup>e</sup> sum of three pounds twelve shillings & 8<sup>d</sup> in full for y<sup>e</sup> County Tax for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Town the 6<sup>th</sup> May 1727 P John Appleton Treasurer

Rec<sup>d</sup> of John Willdes Constable of Topsfield the sum of five pounds sixteen shillings & 9<sup>d</sup> in full for ye County Rate for s<sup>d</sup> Town Aprill 10: 1728 P John Appleton Connty Tre<sup>r</sup>

The two Receipts above Entered are True Copies Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Joseph Dorman Constable; Topsfield the sum of fifty three shillings and 1<sup>d</sup> in full for the County Rate for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Town 2-13-1

Aprill 9<sup>th</sup> 1729

P John Appleton County Treasurer

Boston July the 4<sup>th</sup> 1729 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Joseph Dorman of Topsfield forty Nine pounds three shillings & five pence in full by the hand of Mr Daniel Clark

P Eben<sup>r</sup> Swan

in behalf & by Order of Jer Allen: Esq<sup>r</sup> Treasurer

Topsfield November 20<sup>th</sup> 1729 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Joseph Dorman Constable The full and Just sum of six pounds one shilling and five pence in full for the Town Rate I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Town Tre<sup>r</sup>

The three Receipts Last Entred are True Copies Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

To Mr Joshua Towne Constable of Topsfield Greeting In his Majesties Name you are required to Notifie & warn the freeholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> north side of the River such as are Qualified for voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs: To meet at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town on Tuseday the Third day of March Next at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in the morning on s<sup>d</sup> day: first To Choose Town Officers as the Law Directs

2ly To Reckon with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer





3 To accept of y<sup>e</sup> Return of Laying out a way or ways on y<sup>e</sup> south side of y<sup>e</sup> River in s<sup>d</sup> Town said way being Laid out in y<sup>e</sup> year 1729

4 To Agree with y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors about their fence that Joyns upon y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage

5 To agree upon a Rule to Repair the Meeting house in Topsfield

6 To see if the Town Will answer the Request of Mr<sup>s</sup> Capen Referring to the Record Made in the Town Book Concerning herself & her Son Nathaniel

7 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will allow y<sup>e</sup> trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Last Loan money to Let s<sup>d</sup> money any Longer out of Town

8 To Allow Bills of Charge and make timely return of your doings herein to one or more of y<sup>e</sup> selectmen of Topsfield as you will answer y<sup>e</sup> contrary at y<sup>e</sup> peril of y<sup>e</sup> Law

the Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> South Side John Howlett

of River being Eliezer Lake

Duly Warned & A Proper Return made David Balch

on both Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Warrants the meeting is as followeth Jacob Peabody

Selectmen of Topsfield

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> 1729-30

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Luke Averill & John Dwinel are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

4 Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for the year Ensuing voted

5 Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne Jesse Dorman Qu<sup>str</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman John Willdes & John Perkins are Chosen selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 Joseph Bordman & Thomas Gould are Chosen overseers of y<sup>e</sup> poor voted

7 Thomas Dwinel & Joshua Towne are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> Year Ensuing voted

8 John Hovey is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted





9 David Commings Joseph Peabody Robert Perkins Daniel Gould & Aaron Estey are Chosen Surveyers of highways to y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

10 Jacob Dorman Samuel Smith & Jonathan Wildes are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11 William Reddington is Chosen Schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

12 Israel Towne & Sam<sup>l</sup> Curtis are Chosen hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

13 Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne & David Balch are Chosen a Committee to Recken with Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter our former town Treasurer voted

14 The Town Accepted of the Return of Laying out the way from Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porters Land to ye Northerly End of Mr Jacob Towns house Lott said Return bearing Date february y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1729-30 voted

15 Whereas there is a Return made by a Committe: and is Entered in the 250<sup>th</sup> page of this Book: Which Cast some Reflection on Certain persons in this Town; the Town having Considered thereof: Do now agree to order that the names of s<sup>d</sup> persons shall be wholly Rast out of s<sup>d</sup> Return voted

16 Eliezer Lake Joseph Andrews & Joseph Dorman are Chosen a Committee to agree with y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors about their fence that Joyns upon the Parsonage Land in Topsfield viz to agree upon a prise for one half of s<sup>d</sup> fence or Else that said Proprietors shall take away one half of s<sup>d</sup> fence And Committee to make Return of their doings in that affair by some time in May next voted

17 Nathaniel Averill Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committee To take Care to Repair the meeting house voted

18 The Town agreed that the Trustees for the Towns Last Loan Money shall not Let out any of s<sup>d</sup> Money any Longer out of Town voted

19 The Town have agreed & Impowered the Trustees for y<sup>e</sup> Towns former Loan money to sue for y<sup>e</sup> Last fift part of s<sup>d</sup> money & to pay in the same to y<sup>e</sup> province Treasurer voted

20 The Town Allowed five shillings To Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlet





for string pieces for the bridge by sd Howletts house 1729  
voted 0-5-0

21 The Town Allowed five shillings To Jesse Dorman for  
Timber to mend the bridge by y<sup>e</sup> great pond so called in  
1729 voted 0-5-0

22 The Town allowed one pound six shillings To John  
Perkins for sweeping the Meeting the year past voted 1 6 0

23 The Town allowed two shillings & Eight pence to  
Nathaniel Averill for Eight slabs to mend Mile Brook bridge  
in 1729 voted 0 2 8

24 The Town Allowed one pound to William Reddington  
for serving Schoolmaster the year Past voted 1 0 0

The Several Officers Chosen at y<sup>e</sup> above said Meeting of  
whom an Oath is by Law Required: were all Sworn before  
y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen of Topsfield on y<sup>e</sup> third & on y<sup>e</sup> fift days of  
March 1729-30

Jacob Peabody Town Cler

Boston June 9<sup>th</sup> 1729 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Samuel Curtis Constable  
of Topsfield P mr Joseph Herrick seventeen pounds fifteen  
shillings & six pence in full. for Mr Treasurer Allen

P James Allen

Topsfield March 17: 1729-30 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Samuel Curtis  
Constable the sum of Two pounds Eleven shillings and three  
pence in full for the Town Rate I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Town Treasur<sup>r</sup>

The two Receipts Last Entred are True Copies Attest Ja  
Peabody T:C

Wee the Subscribers being Desired & Impowered by y<sup>e</sup>  
selectmen of Topsfield to Lay out a way for some of y<sup>e</sup> In-  
habitants on y<sup>e</sup> south side of y<sup>e</sup> River in said Town: have  
Laid out a way from M<sup>r</sup> Nathaie<sup>l</sup> Porters Land to y<sup>e</sup> south-  
erly End of Mr Jacob Towns his house Lot. y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> way is  
two Rods wide viz. Extending one rod on y<sup>e</sup> southerly End  
of y<sup>e</sup> Lots now in y<sup>e</sup> Possession of David Balch & y<sup>e</sup> Wido  
Dorothy Dorman & Jacob Dorman & Jesse Dorman & Wil-  
liam Rogers & David Commings & Jacob Redington: And  
one Rod on y<sup>e</sup> Land formerly Called ffarmer Porters Land

Also y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> way is Laid out two Rods wide on a strait Line  
Equally between the above sd Jacob Towns & Jacob Red-  
ingtons viz two rods wide on y<sup>e</sup> southerly End of y<sup>e</sup> above





sd Jacob Towns his house Lott & two Rods wide on the Northerly End of sd Jacob Redingtons Land & so into y<sup>e</sup> way that Leads to the Town bridge so Called

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield ffebruary y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1729-30 Daniel Clarke  
Thomas Gould  
Ivory Hovey

This is & True Copie Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders & Other Inhabitants of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are Warned to Meet together at ye meeting house In Topsfield on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> Twenty fourth of March Currant at two of y<sup>e</sup> Clock after noon first to Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court

2ly To see if the Town will Give Liberty for swine to go at Large as the Law directs

3 To Choose field drivers

4 To Receive the Return of the Committe that was appointed to Agree with the Propritors that Joyn fence upon y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage

5 To Receive the Return of y<sup>e</sup> Committee that was to Reckon with Mr Nathaniel Porter Town Treasurer

6 To see if the Town will be at y<sup>e</sup> Cost of Making & hanging a Cart Gate on y<sup>e</sup> Road by Nathan Bixbys House

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 18: 1729-30 Nathaniel Bordman  
Luke Averill Constable

John Willdes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Jesse Dorman

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 24: 1729-30

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Mr Ivory Hovey is Chosen on y<sup>e</sup> Grandjury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Mr Ivory Hovey & Phineas Redington are Chosen on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the Next Inferior Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

4 The Town Agreed that swine should go at Large this year according as the Law gives Liberty voted

5 Isaac Peabody & William Perkins are Chosen field





drivers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 The Town accepted of y<sup>e</sup> Committes Return of their Reckoning with Mr Nathaniel Porter a former Town Treasurer The Return is as followeth Topsfield March 10<sup>th</sup> 1729-30 voted then we y<sup>e</sup> subscribers Reckoned with Mr Nathaniel Porter Town Treasurer And there is in s<sup>d</sup> Treasurers hands of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Money 24-12-4 and there is already ordered out of that sum: the sum of 12-8-9 as witness our hands

David Balch }  
Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne } Committe

Nathaniel Porter Town Treasurer

7 The Town Allowed Eight pounds to Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> for fourty Nine rods & one half of his fence & stone wall that Joyns upon y<sup>e</sup> parsonage it being y<sup>e</sup> North or northwesterly End of s<sup>d</sup> fence voted

8 The Town Agreed to make & hang a Cart gate upon y<sup>e</sup> way that Leads to Boxford by Nathan Bixbies: & to hang s<sup>d</sup> gate Near to y<sup>e</sup> Corner of Mr Clarks wall Next to sd Bixbies voted

9 Jonathan Wildes is Chosen to make & hang s<sup>d</sup> gate as afores<sup>d</sup> voted

Topsfield March 24<sup>th</sup> 1729-30

To mr Jacob Peabody & mr John Perkins and Mr Jonathan Wildes Gent<sup>n</sup> you are hereby ordred & Impowered to Perambulate and Renew bounds upon the Line Between Ipswich & Topsfield with such gent<sup>n</sup> as y<sup>e</sup> selectmen of Ipswich have appointed and to meet them at y<sup>e</sup> house of Cap<sup>t</sup> Thomas Perley in Boxford on March the Thirtieth Currant at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock if a fair day if not the next fair day

Nath<sup>l</sup> Bordman

John Perkins

Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

March 30<sup>th</sup> 1730

In persuance of y<sup>e</sup> within Order We the subscribers Met Thomas Berry Esq<sup>r</sup> Messer<sup>s</sup> Increas How & Phillamen Dane and Perambulated y<sup>e</sup> Line between Ipswich & Topsfield and Renewed the bounds by Laying stones and Marking Trees

John Wildes }  
Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne } Selectmen  
of Topsfield





Thos Berry } for Jacob Peabody } for  
 Increase How } Ipswich John Perkins }  
 Philemon Dane } Jonathan Willdes } Topsfield

This is a True Copie attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

To Mr Joseph Herrick Mr David Commings and Benjamin Towne

Gentlemen you are hereby ordered & fully Impowered to Perambulate & Renew Bounds between the Towns of Salem & Topsfield: And meet with Cap<sup>t</sup> Johathan Putnam Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Porter Mr John Wolcott and Mr Benja<sup>a</sup> Browne who are appointed by Salem selectmen for s<sup>d</sup> service: and you are to meet them at Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Porters Dwelling in Salem on Aprill y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Instant at Ten in y<sup>e</sup> Morning: Dated Topsfield Aprill:13-1730

John Perkins }  
 John Wildes } Selectmen  
 Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne } of Topsfield

Aprill 27-1730 We underwritten by appointment have Met and Renewed the Bounds Mentioned first at Topsfield Line beginning at a white oak Tree Markt S W T with a heap of stones Round it Near Wenham Causway and so west south westward unto a black oak Tree & stump with stones between; The Tree mark S T then on to a heap of stones at y<sup>e</sup> Corner of Thomas Dwinels Pasture Near Smiths Hill so called: & so on to a heap of stones Near Nickolses Brook which Seperates Middleton Jonathan Putnam Sen<sup>r</sup>

Joseph Herrick } for Samuel Porter } for  
 Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne } John Wolcott }  
 David Commings } Topsfield Benja<sup>a</sup> Browne } Salem

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> order & Return of Perambulation:  
 Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cle

To Mr Joseph Herrick Mr David Commings and Benjamin Towne Gentlemen you are Hereby Impowered to Perambulate & settle bounds Between the Towns of Topsfield & Middleton with such as the selection of Middleton shall appoint and to meet them at y<sup>e</sup> house of Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porters in Topsfield on April y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> Instant at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock afternoon for s<sup>d</sup> service

John Perkins }  
 John Wildes } Selectmen  
 Benja<sup>a</sup> Towne } of Topsfield





To the Town of Topsfield Now Assembled Whereas we the Subscribers were sometime past Chosen a Committee and ordred by s<sup>d</sup> Town to view the way y<sup>t</sup> Leads through Jacob Reddingtons Land in Order to turn it. and to Notifie all Parties Concerned to meet us at y<sup>e</sup> Place: Accordingly we have done it: And Whereas we s<sup>d</sup> Committee are also Impowred to Lay out a way as far as s<sup>d</sup> Reddingtons Land Goes: in Persuance there unto we have Laid out sd way as followeth Viz Two pole in upon sd Reddingtons Land at y<sup>e</sup> Northerly End & westerly Corner, and Two pole in upon Mr Jacob Towns Land at the southerly End of sd Townes Land at y<sup>e</sup> Corner next to Jacob Reddingtons Land: and so to Run strait the whole Length of their Lotts

Dated May the seventh 1729

Eliezer Lake

Tobijah Perkins

This is A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Return: Made by said Lake & Perkins Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

April 27<sup>th</sup> 1730

We underwritten by Appointment Met & settled & Renewed the Bounds between Topsfield and Middleton: first begining at Nickolses Brook where Salem & Topsfield Line youst to Crose sd Brook: and then as sd Brook Runs and the Northerly branch to the River Called Ipswich River

Joseph Herrick	} Topsfield	John Burton	} Middleton
David Commings		Benjamin Knight	
Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne		Ebenezer Nichols	
	{ Committe		{ Committe

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Settlement & Perambulation with Middleton. Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting are warn-ed to Assemble & Meet at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the Twelveth of May Currant at two of the Clock afternoon on sd day

1 To Elect & Depute a Person to serve Representative for sd Town at the General Court to be holden at Cambridge

2 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will do anything further with the proprietors that Joyn fence on y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage

3 To see what the Town will do with the Intrest of y<sup>e</sup> Loan money this year





4 To see if the Town will Choose a Committe to settle bounds with Boxford

5 To Consider of: and answer a Petition of Joseph Commings of Ipswich

6 To see what the Town will do Refering to a Petition of Mr Jacob Towne Entred at a Court of Sessions Refering to highway—and to do anythings that they shall think best about highways in said Town Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May 7<sup>th</sup> 1730

Luke Averill Constable of Topsfield	Jesse Dorman John Perkins John Wildes Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	} Select- men of } Tops- field
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At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield May 12<sup>th</sup> 1730

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to Represent the Town at the General Court to be holden at Cambridge on the Last Wednesday of May Currant  
voted

3 The Town Made Choice of Jesse Dorman to divide fence with y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of bare hill viz the fence between y<sup>e</sup> said bare hill & y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage and said Dorman is to Make up the Towns Part thereof with a sufficient Raill fence and the Town is to Allow said Dorman three shillings three pence & three farthings per rod  
voted

4 The Town Agreed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Trustees for y<sup>e</sup> Towns Last Loan money shall pay in four pound per cent of sd Money to y<sup>e</sup> Province Treasurer & two per cent to y<sup>e</sup> Town Trasur<sup>r</sup>  
voted

5 Mr Zacheus Gould mr Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committe to settle the bounds & Perambulate y<sup>e</sup> Line between Topsfield & Boxford with such Gentlemen as Boxford shall apoint for sd service: according to y<sup>e</sup> Last Resolve of y<sup>e</sup> General Court Refering to said Line  
voted

6 Upon hearing a Petition of Joseph Commings of Ipswich on behalf of the Children of Joseph Commings Late of Topsfield Dec<sup>d</sup> The Town abated the whole of y<sup>e</sup> province Tax & Ministers Rate that was Levied on y<sup>e</sup> Estate of s<sup>d</sup> Joseph Commings deceased In y<sup>e</sup> year 1729  
voted

7 Mr Joseph Bordman Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould & Mr Joseph





Herrick are Chosen to Discourse with Mr Jacob Towne Referring to y<sup>e</sup> Road Lately Laid out by s<sup>d</sup> Townses house: and when they have heard sd Townses Terms for said Road and for the Damage he has sustained thereby: sd Committe are to make Report thereof to the Town; for further Consideration voted

We Whose Names are under written being appointed by the selectmen of our several Towns viz Wenham & Topsfield to Renew & Perambulate bounds between our Respective Towns as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs have accordingly attended said service and have Renewed y<sup>e</sup> bounds According to the settlement agreed upon by the two towns Wenham & Topsfield in y<sup>e</sup> year 1682. as witness our hands

Dated Wenham May y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1730

Michael Dwinel	} for	Theophilus ffisk	} for
Jonathan Wildes		Ebenezer ffisk	
William Redington			
	Topsfield		Wenham

A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for voting as the Law Directs are Notified & warned to assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the Ninth Currant at two of the Clock afternoon To Receive the Committes Return that were Chosen to Treet with mr Jacob Towne Concerning (The Notification was Not given to the Clerk)

Boston July 28<sup>th</sup> 1730

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield for the £50 000 Loan fifty one pounds Their Last fift of said Loan by the hands of ffancis Borland Esqr, for Mr Trea<sup>s</sup> Allen

P Eben<sup>r</sup> Swan

Boston July 28<sup>th</sup> 1730

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield for the £60 000—Grant Ten pounds Eleven shillings & three pence one years Intrest to y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> June 1730 by y<sup>e</sup> hands of ffancis Borland Esqr for Mr Trea<sup>s</sup> Allen P Eben<sup>r</sup> Swan

These two receipts Last Entred are True Copies Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk





At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield June 9<sup>th</sup> 1730

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Town Allowed Eighteen shillings to y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of Towns Last Loan viz Eliezer Lake Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody for their trouble in Receiving: and paying in y<sup>e</sup> intrest of said Loan according to Town order the year past voted

3 The Town agreed & Impowered y<sup>e</sup> present selectmen to Reckon & settle accounts with y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Towns former Loan (namely Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter) and to Receive what intrest is yet due to the Town of said Loan for y<sup>e</sup> Towns use: and also to pay to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Trustees what is due to them for their service in that affair voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting: are hereby Warned & Notified; to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting-house in Topsfield the Twenty-second Instant, at two of the Clock, afternoon, on said day.

1 To Choose Jurymen for Newbery Court

2 To see if the Town will Repair, or dispose of the watch house

3 To Reckon and settle accompts, with y<sup>e</sup> overseers of the poor

4 To Choose a Committe, to give Reasons at Newbery Court, why the prayer of Mr Jacob Townes Petition ought not to be heard-or to agree with said Towne.

Dated Topsfield September 17<sup>th</sup> 1730 Nathaniel Bordman  
Luke Averil Constable of Topsfield. Jesse Dorman

John Perkins

John Wildes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy of the Notification: Attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk.

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 1730

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Mr Joseph Herrick & Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne are Chosen to





serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery voted

3 Mr Joseph Bordman, Mr John Wildes & Mr Joseph Andrew are Chosen to make sale of y<sup>e</sup> watch house (according to their best Judgement) for the Towns benefitt any two of them agreeing in said sale it is to be Counted Vallied

voted

Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould, Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett, & mr Joseph Herrick Mr Benjamin Towne, & Mr Daniel Clark; are Chosen a Committee, to Treet with mr Jacob Towne Concerning the way, Lately Laid out between said Townes & Mr Jacob Redingtons. And Said Committe are hereby fully Impowered to agree with s<sup>d</sup> Townes for y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> way & damages According to their best Judgment & discretion; if they think it Convenient: But if sd Committe do not agree with y<sup>e</sup> said mr Jacob Towne, about sd way, & damage he saith he sustains thereby: Then Mr Joseph Herrick, & Mr Benjamin Towne, are Chosen Agents for y<sup>e</sup> Town; To Implead said Towne and give in y<sup>e</sup> Reasons at y<sup>e</sup> Next Inferior Court to be holden at Newbery why a Jury should not Come to View y<sup>e</sup> said way voted

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs for voting are Notified & warned to Assemble & Meet together at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday the Eighteenth of November Instant at Two of y<sup>e</sup> Clock afternoon on s<sup>d</sup> day

1 To agree on a Tax to defray Town Charges this year  
2 To Choose a Committe to Agree with mr Jacob Towne about the highway by said Townes house or to give in Reasons at the Next Court Sessions why the prayer of said Townses petition ought not to be answered

3 To Choose a Committe to make up the Townes part of fence Between the parsonage and the proprietors of bare hill

4 To Allow Bills of Charge.

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield November 10<sup>th</sup> 1730

Luke Averill Constable for Topsfield

A True Copy &c

John Perkins

John Wildes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield





At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield November 18<sup>th</sup>  
1730

1 Qu<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Bordman is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> Present selectmen shall Leivy a Tax of Ten pound To defray Town Charges voted

3 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett Mr Joseph Herrick & Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne are Chosen Committe to Treat with Mr Jacob Towne about the way that is Laid out between said Townes & Jacob Reddingtons And s<sup>d</sup> Committe are fully Impowered to Agree with said Townes about said way & damages he sustains thereby according as they in their Prudence shall think Convenient. but if said Committee or the Major part of them do not agree with sd Towne as afore said than the said Committe are fully Impowered, to Implead y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Mr Jacob Towne at y<sup>e</sup> Next Inferiour Court & General sessions of y<sup>e</sup> peace to be holden at Salem & to Give in their Reasons at s<sup>d</sup> Court why a Jury should not Come to view y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> way voted

4 Mr Thomas Dwinel & Mr Joseph Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen to make up the Towns Part of the fence Between the Parsonage & the Proprietors of bare hill pasture voted

5 The Town Allowed seven shillings & six pence to Joseph Peabody for Timber to mend highways in y<sup>e</sup> summer past  
voted 0 7 0

6 The Town Allowed five shillings to John Wildes for one Days tendance at Salem Court Last June and three shillings for Entering warrants in y<sup>e</sup> Court records voted

7 The Town Allowed four shillings & six pence to Qu<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Bordman for tending one day at Salem Court the Last summer  
voted 0 4 6

8 The Town Allowed three shillings to mr Joseph Herrick for perambulating with Salem & Middleton voted 0 3 0

9 The Town Allowed three shillings to David Commings for y<sup>e</sup> same service  
voted 0 3 0

10 The Town allowed one shilling to Benjamin Towne for gitting a Warrant Entred in y<sup>e</sup> Court Records & five shillings for one Days tendance at Salem Court Last summer and three shillings for perambulating with Salem & Middleton y<sup>e</sup> Last summer and Ten shillings for two Days tendance at Newbery Court as Agent for y<sup>e</sup> Town and five shillings for Lawyers fees, the whole  
I-4-0





11 The Town Allowed Ten shillings to Mr Joseph Herrick for two days tendance at Newbery Court as agent for y<sup>e</sup> Town & five shillings he paid to a Lawyer voted 0 15 0

12 The Town Allowed Twelve shillings to Jonathan Wildes for making & hanging A Cart Gate on y<sup>e</sup> Road near to Nathan Byxby in y<sup>e</sup> summer past voted 0 12 0

13 The Town Allowed six shillings to Doc<sup>t</sup> Michael Dwinel William Redington and Jonathan Wildes for perambulating with Wenham Last Spring 0 6 0

14 The Town Allowed three shillings to Qu<sup>tr</sup> Nathaniel Bordman & Mr John Wildes for Meeting with Boxford Selectmen in order to perambulating voted 0 3 0

15 The Town Allowed to John Perkins Jonathan Wildes & Jacob Peabody six shillings for perambulating with Ipswich voted 0 6 0

16 The Town Allowed seven shillings to Joseph Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> for Timber to mend Wheel brook Bridge in y<sup>e</sup> summer past voted 0 7 0

17 The Town Allowed one shilling & six pence to Jacob Peabody for Timber to mend the bridge over Isaac Peabody Meadow y<sup>e</sup> Last Summer 0 1 6

Topsfield December 17<sup>th</sup> 1730 Rec<sup>d</sup> of John Wildes Constable for y<sup>e</sup> year 1726 and for y<sup>e</sup> year 1727 five pounds in full for both said years I say Received by me Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Town Tr

A True Copy of the Receipt attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are hereby warned and Notified to meet together at the Meeting house in said Town at two of the Clock after noon on Tuseday the Twenty Second Currant

1 To Receive the Committes Return that was Chosen to Treet with Mr Jacob Towne about the highway Laid out by said Townes house and partly on said Towns Land. And To do anything about said highway that the Town shall best by themselves or agents:

2 To Reckon & settle acompts with y<sup>e</sup> overseers of the poor viz Joseph Bordman & Thomas Gould





Dated Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 16<sup>th</sup> 1730

Luke Averill Constable of Topsfield	Nathaniel Bordman John Perkins Jesse Dorman Benjamin Towne John Wildes	} Select- men of Topsfield
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At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1730

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The Town agreed that whereas there hath been a Road Lately Laid out on one side of Mr Jacob Townes Land; to meet with the Road which Leads from y<sup>e</sup> River Bridge through y<sup>e</sup> Land that was formerly Common to said Townes And the said Jacob Townes first Division of Common Land in Topsfield Lying on both sides of said Road: The s<sup>d</sup> Jacob Towns shall have Liberty to hang two gates on sd Road where he shall think best against his own Land, and also that y<sup>e</sup> whole of said Townses stone wall which is a whole wall that is against the sd Road may stand without being removed: And also the town is to pay six pound unto the said Jacob Townes for the Damages Done by sd Road  
voted

3 The Town agreed that y<sup>e</sup> selectmen shall Reckon with & settle acompts with the overseers of the poor to wit M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Bordman & Mr Thomas Gould  
voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for voting as the Law directs: Are hereby Warned and Notified To Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting house in said Town on Wednesday the Twentieth Day of Jan<sup>y</sup> Currant At one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock afternoon on s<sup>d</sup> day

1 To Elect & Depute a Person to serve for & Represent them In a General Court or Assembly to be hild at Boston 2ly To see if the Town will Agree to have Lectures Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield January the 5<sup>th</sup> 1730

Luke Averill Constable of Topsfield	John Perkins John Wildes Benj <sup>m</sup> Towne
Selectmen of Topsfield	





At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield January y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>  
1730-31

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to Represent the Town at  
y<sup>e</sup> General Court at the Next session of sd Court to be held  
at Boston voted

3 En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey Mr Thomas Gould and Jacob Peabody  
are Chosen a Committe to Discourse with our Reverend  
Mr Emerson to see if he will Please to Preach Lectures to us  
voted

Topsfield June 3, 1730: Received of Mr Ivory Hovey  
Town Treasurer by the hand of his son Ivory five pounds in  
full for my half years Salary from September y<sup>e</sup> second to  
the second of Last March: by me John Emerson

Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1729-30 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr. Ivory Hovey  
Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of fifteen pounds Ten shillings in  
full for the second hundred pounds settlement by me

John Emerson

The Two Receipts above written by me are True Copies  
Attest Ja<sup>b</sup> Peabody Town Cler

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of  
Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for vot-  
ing; are hereby warn<sup>d</sup> to Assemble and meet together at y<sup>e</sup>  
meeting house in Topsfield, on Tuseday the second day of  
March next at Eight of the Clock in the morning

To Make Choice of Town Clerk, Constables, Selectmen,  
Town Treasurer And other Town officers annually to be  
Chosen by the Direction of the Law; also to Reckon & set-  
tle accompts with our Town Treasurers; also to accept of  
the return of the selectmens Laying out of a highway for Mr  
George Bixby from his Land, to the Road that Leadeth  
from Mr Jacob Towne To the Town Bridge: also to Choose  
a Committe to agree with Mr David Commings for y<sup>e</sup> fence  
he hath set up about the Parsonage Also to accept of the  
Return of the selectmens Turning the highway by Mr Sam-  
uel Howlets Also to see what the Town will do [with] what  
Money & goods the selectmen have in their hands that they  
Received of the overseers of the poor. Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Feb-  
ruary the 18<sup>th</sup> 1730





Luke Averill Constable of Topsfield    Nathaniel Bordman  
    Jesse Dorman  
    John Perkins  
    John Wildes  
    Bedj<sup>n</sup> Towne  
    Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legal Town meeting In Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 1730-1

- 1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted
- 2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 3 Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Bradstreet & Mr Matthew Peabody are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 4 En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 5 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett Joseph Herrick, John Wildes, Benjamin Towne, & Jacob Peabody are Chosen Selectmen for the year Ensuing  
voted
- 6 Joseph Robinson, Aaron Estey, & Nathan Bixby: are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 7 Mr John Hovey is Chosen Sealler of Leather for the Ensuing year  
voted
- 8 Joseph Andrew, Eliezer Lake, William Perkins & Joseph Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen Surveyers of highways for y<sup>e</sup> Ensuing year  
voted
- 9 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould, Jesse Dorman & Benjamin How are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 10 Mr William Reddington is Chosen Schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 11 Gedion Towne & John Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> are Hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 12 The Town agreed & ordered the Selectmen to Reckon & settle accompts with the Town Treasurers  
voted
- 13 The Town accepted of the Return of the selectmens Laying out a way for George Bixby, from said Bixbies own Land over Israel Townes Land to the Road that Leads from Mr Jacob Townes: to the Town bridge (so Called) Provided that y<sup>e</sup> said Bixby shall Pay the Cost that shall arise thereby  
voted





14 The Town Accepted of y<sup>e</sup> Return of y<sup>e</sup> selectmens Turning the way from Samuel Howletts gate by Nath<sup>l</sup> Capens orchard to the Training field voted

15 Mr Jacob Estey, Mr David Balch & Mr Joseph Robinson are Chosen a Committe to agree with David Commings about the fence he hath set up about the Parsonage And also the said Committe are Impowered to Divide fence with y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of bare hill so far as said Proprietors Joyn upon y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage voted

17 Whereas there is some of y<sup>e</sup> Estate of the Widow Mary Averill (Late of Topsfield deceased:) In the hands of the selectmen: The Town do now order that the sd Estate shall be Delivered unto Mary Jackson or her order if there be opportunity for it she being a Daughter of said Deceased, & a poor widow voted

18 The Town having heard the acompt of Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter a former Town Treasurer do now aquit and discharge y<sup>e</sup> sd Treasurer from all dues or demands on that account he Paying all former orders voted

The Town officers all sworn on y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> & on y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> days of March 1730-31 Except y<sup>e</sup> assessors

At A Lawfull Meeting of the selectmen of Topsfield December the 25:1730 we Laid out a Peticular, or highway, for Mr George Bixby, Beginning at the south Easterly Corner of the said Bixbies own Land: Where his now dwelling house is so Running straight on in the same Range of Lotts A Cross Israel Townes Land-and Coming into the highway (that Leadeth from Mr Jacob Townes to y<sup>e</sup> River bridge) by a Tree standing in y<sup>e</sup> said Israel Towns wall: and we Laid it out two Rods wide upon the Southerly side of the Middle Range of Lotts: so Called by the proprietors or Lot Layers

Nathaniel Bordman	}	Selectmen
Jesse Dorman		
John Perkins	}	of Topsfield
John Willdes		
Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne		

At A Lawfull Meeting of the selectmen of Topsfield Decem<sup>r</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1730 We altred the Laying of the highway





that Lyeth from Samuel Howlets Gate To the County Road : and Layed it from said Gate by Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Capens orchard Turning Round as sd Capens fence now standeth to the Training field : and we Laid it out Two rods wide.

Nath <sup>l</sup> Bordman	} Selectmen of Topsfield
John Wildes	
Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	

The Two Returns above written are True Copies attest Jacob Peabody Town Cle

An account of y<sup>e</sup> remains of y<sup>e</sup> Estate of y<sup>e</sup> widow Mary Averil, Deceased

January y<sup>e</sup> 25 : 1730 Then Reckoned and settled accompts with the overseers of the poor and all accompts Cleard with them : and there Remains in our hands that we have Received of them ; Eight shillings & six pence And one sute of silk Crape Cloths for a woman ; two pairs of old stockings and an old boulder, one Bible & severall pieces of Books

We both parties have set to our hands	John Perkins
Joseph Borman	} overseers of y <sup>e</sup> poor
Thomas Gould	
	Nath <sup>l</sup> Bordman
	John Wildes
	Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody T: Cle

Topsfield January : 25 : 1730-31 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of Eleven Pounds seven shillings & Eight pence in full, for my half years Salary from March 2 : 1729-30 to Sept 2 : 1730

I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me John Emerson

Topsfield March 2 : 1730-31 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of fifty pounds in full for my Last years sallary from September 2 : 1730 to March 2 : 1730-31

I say Received by me John Emerson

£50-<sup>s</sup>00-<sup>d</sup>00 The two Receipts above written are True Copies Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The ffreeholders & other Inhabitance of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are hereby warned & Notified to meet together at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Thursday the Eighteenth Currant at Two of the Clock on sd day

I To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court





2 To see if the Town will Give Liberty for swine to go at Large

3 To Receive the Return of the Committe that was to Divide fence with the Proprietors of Bare Hill

4 To see if the Town will give Liberty to Build a Pew or Pews in the meeting house

5 To Choose a man or men to Repair the meeting house Also to allow bills of charge

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1730-31 John Howlett

Matthew Peabody Constable of Topsfield John Wildes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legal Town Meeting In Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1730-31

1 Mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Mr Tobjah Perkins is Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand jury: & Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould & Mr Jonathan Wildes are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich  
voted

3 The Town Doth give Liberty for swine to go at Large in this Town according as the Law gives Liberty  
voted

4 The Town allowed to John Perkins one pound Eight shillings for sweeping the meeting house in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730  
voted 1 8 0

5 The Town allowed to Samuell Smith Ten shillings for Timber to mend or make the Bridge by Nathan Bixbyes in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730  
voted 0 10 0

6 The Town Allowed to Capt<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould seven shillings for Timber to Mend y<sup>e</sup> bridge by Nathan Bixbyes in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730  
voted 0 7 0

7 The Town allowed to Daniel Gould three shillings for Timber to mend or make y<sup>e</sup> bridge by Nathan Bixbies in 1730  
voted 0 3 0

8 The Town allowed to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould seven shillings, for Timber to Make the bridge by Nathan Bixbys; in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730  
voted 0 7 0

9 The Town allowed to William Reddington Twenty shillings for Being Schoolmaster for y<sup>e</sup> Town in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730  
voted 1 0 0





10 En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a Committe to take Care to Repair y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house voted

11 And the sd Committe are to Discourse with mr John Prichard in the first place to see if they can agree with sd Prichard to doo the work of Repairing y<sup>e</sup> meeting house

voted

12 The Town accepted of y<sup>e</sup> Committies Return of divid- ing fence with y<sup>e</sup> proprietors of Bare Hill Pasture. And also of their agreement with David Commings for y<sup>e</sup> fence he had formerly set up on y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage Line: which was for two pounds four shillings. 2 4 0

13 The Town Allowed to Thomas Dwinel & Joseph Town Jun<sup>r</sup> Two pounds Nine shillings & Eight pence: for fifteen Rods of fence, which they have set up this Spring on y<sup>e</sup> parsonage Line next to bare hill Pasture voted 2 9 8

14 The Town Allowed to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould sixteen shillings and ten pence for three Rods & a Quarter and half a Quarter of stone [wall which] will bring the Norwest End of his wall between the parsonage & Bare hill pasture

voted 0 16 10

We Whose Names are under written being a Committe Chosen by y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield to agree with Mr. David Comings for some fence he set up about the parsonage: Also to divide fence with the proprietors of bare Hill that Joyn to the parsonage: Likewise we have seen sd Comminges fence & find it to be Eleven Rods of stone wall and two foot And we have agreed to give him for it Two pounds four shillings 2 4 0 And we did Notifie y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of bare Hill: to Appear: and some did not: and we find the men that Joyn Lands to be Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould, and Luke Averill, and William Perkins, and said Goulds Land Joyns six Poles & three Quarters And Averills Joyns Ten Poles and one third part of a pole:—And Perkins Joyn Thirty two Poles and three foot and we set Bounds in y<sup>e</sup> Middle of Each Mans Lott. and we Chose the Norwest End of Each of their Lotts Jacob Estey

March 18<sup>th</sup> 1730-31

David Balch

Joseph Robinson

This is a True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Return Attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk





Essex ss To Mr Samuel Bradstreet, Constable of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield; Greeting. In his Majesties Name you are hereby Required to Notify & warn all the Freeholders; & other Inhabitants on y<sup>e</sup> North side of y<sup>e</sup> River, in Topsfield; Such as are Quallified as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs for Voting: To meet at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in said Town on ffryday y<sup>e</sup> fourteenth day of May Currant, at three of the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> after noon first To Chuse a Representative.

2 To see if the Town will give order to y<sup>e</sup> Committe that is to Repair the Meeting house; to Draw Money out of y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurey for said Service.

3 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Chuse a Committe to Petition to the General Court or use any other Lawfull Means to have a fish Corse Cleared up Ipswich River.

4 To all[ow] Bills of Charge

5 To see what the Town will doe with y<sup>e</sup> intrest of their Loan Money

6 To see if the Town will Chuse a Committe to settle bounds with Boxford: or doe anything about said Line that y<sup>e</sup> Town shall then think best

And Make Return of your doings herein: unto one or more of y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen of said Town one hour at Least before said time of Meeting: as you will Answer the Contrary at y<sup>e</sup> Perrill of y<sup>e</sup> Law

Date<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1731

John Howlett

Joseph Herrick

John Wildes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Jacob Peabody

Selectmen of Topsfield

Essex ss Pursuant to the within order from the selectmen of Topsfield: I have warned the freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield on the North side of the River duly Quallified to vote to assemble & meet at time & place to act upon the several Perticular Articles within Mentioned

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May the 14<sup>th</sup> 1731 Samuel Bradstreet Constable of Topsfield

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> warrant & Return attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The Inhabitants of the south side of y<sup>e</sup> river being Likewise warned the meeting was as followeth





At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1731

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to Represent the Town at y<sup>e</sup> General Court, on y<sup>e</sup> Twenty sixth day of May Currant:  
And so at the several sessions of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Court  
voted

3 The Town gave order, to Ens Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody to draw sixteen pound out of the town Treasurey to Enable them to go on with y<sup>e</sup> Repairing the Meeting house  
voted

4 The Town hath made Choice of Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould the present Representative To Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Persons that are or may be Chosen by the neighbouring Towns to prefer a Petition to this General Court in order to git a fish Corse Cleard up Ipswich river  
voted

5 Mr Benjamin Towne is Chosen to Procure the Copies of the petitions that has been Put in to the: sessions of y<sup>e</sup> Peace: for y<sup>e</sup> Gitting a fish Corse Cleared up Ipswich river and the Courts order upon it, sd Towne is to deliver sd Copies to Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould to Enable him to Manage the Petition at the General Court  
voted

6 Mr Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne is ordred to draw Twenty shillings out of the Town Treasurey to defray the Charge of sd Copies  
voted 1 0 0

7 The Town Allowed Twelve shillings to Eliezer Lake, Tobijah Perkins, and Jacob Peabody: for their trouble in taking in y<sup>e</sup> intrest of the Towns Loan Money for y<sup>e</sup> year past & disposing of the same according to the Towns order  
voted

8 The Town ordred that the Towns part of the Intrest of the Loan money shall be paid in to the Town Treasurer for the Towns Use he giving a Receipt for y<sup>e</sup> same: And the Trustees are to send the Rest of y<sup>e</sup> Intrest of s<sup>d</sup> Loan to the province Treasurer as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs  
voted

9 Mr Thomas Gould Mr John Curtis & John Hovey are Chosen a Committe And Impowred to Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Committe that is or may be Chosen by the Town of Boxford, to settle the bounds on y<sup>e</sup> Line between Topsfield & Boxford According to the Last Resolve of the General Court Referring to s<sup>d</sup> Line (Excepting that part of the Line from An-





drewses Dam; to fishing Brook) and said Committe are Impowred to settle a straight Line from said Dam to the fishing Brook: as near as they Can, to y<sup>e</sup> Place where the Revilet Mentioned in said Resolve did run into fishing brook at y<sup>e</sup> time when y<sup>e</sup> said Resolve passed at the General Court: According to the best Information that May be had: by Liveing Evidence. haveing a like Regard to the benefit of Each Town voted

We whose Names are under written being a Committe Chosen and Impowred by the Towns of Topsfield and Boxford Respectively. to settle the bounds between Topsfield and Boxford: according to the Last Resolve of the General Court. Anno: 1707: have accordingly settled the Line between said Topsfield and Boxford: from the Apple Tree in Cap<sup>t</sup> Perleys field, to a stake and heap of stones at the south easterly corner of Mr Bakers farm now in Boxford: and from thence to a damm Called Andrews damm Near Mr Thomas Goulds house; and from thence being the Place where y<sup>e</sup> water now Runs under s<sup>d</sup> damm: thence southerly to a stake and heap of stones by the fishing Brook, on y<sup>e</sup> Easterly side of the Revolet Runing into sd Brook: and then, as the said Book runs into the River Called Ipswich River: then up said River to Middleton Line.

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield June 17<sup>th</sup> 1731

John Hovey

This is a True Copy of the Return

Tho<sup>s</sup> Perley

of the settlement of the bounds or

Tho<sup>s</sup> Gould

Line Between Topsfield & Boxford.

Thomas Pearley Jun<sup>r</sup>

Attest Jacob Peabody

John Andrew

Town Clerk

John Curtis

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield, such as are duly Quallified as the Law directs for voting; are hereby warned, and Notified to Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in said Topsfield: on Wednesday, the fifteenth of September Currant at one of the Clock after noon

1<sup>st</sup> To see What Advice & Instruction said Town will Give to their Representative Referring to his Majesties Thirteenth Instruction To his Excellency in supplying the Treasary:

2<sup>ndly</sup> To Choose Jurymen for Newbery Court. 3<sup>rdly</sup> To allow bills of Charge





4 To see if s<sup>d</sup> Town will Agree to have Contributions for Mr Emerson and how often they shall be: dated Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 8<sup>th</sup> 1731 Benjamin Towne by order

Matthew Peabody Constable of the Selectmen of Topsfield  
At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1731.

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 John Prichard & William Reddington are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery  
voted

3 The Town allowed to Jacob Reddington three shillings for Timber to mend highways in 1731  
0 3 0

4 The Town allowed Two shillings to George Byxbe for a hollow Log to Lay in a gutter  
voted 0 2 0

5 The Town Allowed one pound Eight shillings and three pence to Eliezer Lake & Joseph Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> as Surveyuers for Two Tun, & thirty three feet of Timber to Mend the Bridge over y<sup>e</sup> River in June 1731;  
voted 1-8-3

6 The Town Allowed Eight shillings to the Heirs of Joseph Commings Late of Topsfield deceased: for About two Rod of stone wall which s<sup>d</sup> Commings Made about the Parsonage said 8<sup>s</sup> to be paid to Jacob Peabody: for the sole Use & benefit of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> heirs  
voted

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law directs for voting are Notified and Warned to meet at the Meeting house in said Town on Tuseday the seventh of December Next at Twelve of the Clock on said day: first to see How Much Money said Town will agree to have Raised to defray Town Charges

Secondly, To allow Bills of Charge John Howlet

Dated Topsfield November y<sup>e</sup> 24<sup>th</sup> 1731 John Wildes

Samuel Bradstreet Constable of Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Topsfield Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield December y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1731

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 The Town Allowed to Jacob Peabody 14-12-7 for Sunday's bought and work done towards Repairing of the meeting house in 1731  
voted 14 12 7





3 The Town Allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey 7-12-2 for several things bought for the Repairing the Meeting house in the year 1731 voted 7 12 2

4 The Town Allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody To pay for glazing the Meeting house in the year 1731 voted 7 5 0

5 The Town Allowed to William Reddington 0 9<sup>s</sup> 0 for specks to fasten up the Troughs on the Meeting house in y<sup>e</sup> year 1731 voted 0 9 0

6 The Town Allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody 14<sup>s</sup>-6<sup>d</sup> for work done by Nathan Hood on y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in July Last voted 0 14-6

7 The Town Allowed to Nathaniel Capen 5<sup>l</sup>-0-0 for finding materials and building the Pew which M<sup>rs</sup> Emerson sits in on Sabbath Days voted 5 0 0

8 The Town Allowed To Nathaniel Capen one pound for boarding John Safford & keeping his horse while he set the glass in the meeting house in the year 1731 voted 1 0 0

9 The Town Agreed that this Meeting should be Adjourned to Tuseday the fourteenth Currant at Twelve of the Clock on said day voted

The Moderator Adjourn<sup>d</sup> the Meeting accordingly

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield held by adjournment from y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Day of December 1731 To the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the same month and then Met, first The Town Allowed to Daniel Gould 2<sup>s</sup> for Timber to Mend the bridge by Nathan Bixbies in y<sup>e</sup> year 1730 voted 0-2-0

2 The Town allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody 14<sup>s</sup> for half a thousand of short shingles: bought of Daniel Gould to repair the meeting house voted 0 14 0

3 The Town allowed to Jesse Dorman five shillings for two string pieces for the bridge by Jacob Dormans in y<sup>e</sup> year 1731. voted 0 5 0

4 The Town allowed To Thomas Baker six shillings, for Timber to Mend the bridge by Jacob Dormans in 1731 voted 0 6 0

5 The Town allowed to Jacob Robinson four shillings for timber voted 0 4 0

6 The Town allowed to Nathan Bixby five shillings for





Carting five hundred of board from Salem to the Meeting house this year 0 5 0

7 The Town Allowed to Jacob Averill three shillings & 4<sup>d</sup> for slabs to mend mile Brook Bridge 0 3 4

8 The Town allowed to John Perkins one shilling & six pence for Timber voted 0 1 0

9 The Town Allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey & Jacob Peabody Twenty six pound for work done on y<sup>e</sup> meeting house by mr John Prichard & his son Eli Prichard in y<sup>e</sup> year 1731 voted 26 0 0

10 The Town Agreed that the Selectmen shall Levey a Tax of Twenty pound (besides the Bills of Charge that are already allowed) to Defray Town Charges voted

Topsfield November: 18: 1731 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of two pounds Ten shillings in full for my half years Salary from March 2: 1731 to September 2: 1731 by me John Emerson

The receipt Last Entered is a True Copy Attest

Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

These are to Notifie the freeholders and other Inhabitants of Town of Topsfield Quallified as the Law directs for voting to meet at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in said Town on Tuseday the seventh day of March next At Eight of the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning

1st To Choose Town Officers as the Law directs

2 To Allow bills of Charge, and also to Reckon with the Town Treasurer

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield ffebruary 23<sup>rd</sup> 1731-2

John Howlett

John Willdes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Jacob Peabody

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town Meeting In Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1731-2

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 John Perkins & Aaron Estey are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted





4 The said Aaron Estey agreed with: and the Town accepted of Thomas Dwinel to serve as Constable in the room or stead of said Estey voted

5 En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 Thomas Gould Quartermaster Nathaniel Bordman, George Byxbe Richard Towne, & Joseph Dorman are Chosen Selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

7 John Hovey is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

8 John Towne, Thomas Dwinel, & Jacob Dorman, are Chosen Tythingmen for the year Ensuing voted

9 Daniel Redington Ju<sup>r</sup> Jacob Redington, William Rogers & John Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen Surveyars of highways for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

10 Nathaniel Porter, Eliezer Lake, & Thomas Baker, are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11 Benjamin How, & Joseph Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen Hog-reaves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

12 John Dwinel & Samuel Curtis are Chosen field drivers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

The Several Persons above named, that were Chosen to office who the Law Requires to be sworn: All toke the oath belonging to there Respective offices on the seventh & on y<sup>e</sup> Tenth days of March 1731-2 Except William Rogers and Jacob Dorman

Entred by order of the selectmen

p Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Lawfully Quallified for voting are hereby Notified & warned to Conven together at the meeting house on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> Twenty first of this Instant att one of the Clock after noon

1 To Choose three Jurymen one to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury and the other on the Jury of Tryalls

2 To see what the Town will do Concerning Reckoning with the Town Treasurer.

3 To see what the Town will do Concerning a School-master.

4 To see if the Town will make Choice of a Committe to





New Seat the Meeting house and give them Instructions.

5 To see if the Town will Agree y<sup>t</sup> Hogs shall run at Large

6 To Allow Bills of Charge

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1731-2 Richard Towne by order of the Selectmen

Thomas Dwinel Constable of Topsfield

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March 21<sup>st</sup> 1731-2

1 Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen moderator for this meeting

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> grand jury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Mr Simon Bradstreet & William Perkins are Chosen to y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls At the Next Inferior Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

4 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett Mr Eliezer Lake & Mr George Bixby are Chosen a Committe to provide a Schoolmaster for the Town and agree with him for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 The Town agreed that the said Committe shall order the School to be kept two thirds of the time on y<sup>e</sup> North Side the River & one third on the south side of y<sup>e</sup> River

voted  
6 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould, Mr Eliezer Lake, mr Jacob Dorman: mr Joshua Towne And mr Joseph Robinson: are Chosen a Committee to New seat People in the meeting house: and the Major part of them agreing it shall be vallied voted

7 The Town [agreed] that Swine shall goe att Large the year Ensuing according as the Law gives Liberty voted

8 The Town Gave Liberty To Mr Eliezer Lake mr George Bixby, mr Joseph Herrick, Mr Daniel Redington Jun<sup>r</sup> Phineas Redington to Sit up a stable of thirty foot Long at the southerly End of Ipswich farmers stable voted

9 The Town Allowed to Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould one pound twelve shillings and three pence for his Expences in the affair of the fish Corse voted 1-12-3

10 The Town Allowed to Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould six shillings for Timber to mend the highways in y<sup>e</sup> year 1731

voted 0-6-0

11 The Town Allowed to John Perkins one pound and Eight shillings for sweeping the Meeting house the Last year

voted 1-8-0





12 The Town Allowed to William Redington Ten shillings for Serving the Town as a Schoolmaster in y<sup>e</sup> year 1731

voted 0-10-0

Topsfield March: 7<sup>th</sup> 1732: Received of mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of fifty pounds in full for my half years Salary from September 2: 1731 to March 2: 1732 by me John Emerson

A True Copie of the receipt Given by mr Emerson:  
Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

1902750

Boston May 26 1731

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield by Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould, Ten Pounds Eleven Shillings & three pence Intrest to the 1 June 1731, for M<sup>r</sup> Treasurer Allen P Eben Swan

A True Copie Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting are hereby Notified and warned to Convene together at the meeting house on Wednesday the seventeenth day of this Instant May; att two of the Clock in ye afternoon

1 To Choose a Representative to serve att the great and general Court.

2 To see what the Town will do Concerning their being fined for want of [a] Schoolmaster

3 To see how the Town will Improve the intrest of the Loan Money

Dated Topsfield May the 12<sup>th</sup> 1732 Thomas Gould

John Perkins Constable of Topsfield Joseph Dorman

George Bixby

Richard Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1732

1 Mr John Hovey is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen to serve for and Represent the Town at y<sup>e</sup> General Court

voted

3 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett & En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey are Chosen Agents for the Town To make Application to the Judges of the Inferior Court at the next General Sessions of the peace in the County of Essex. To try if they can git the fine

12 The Town Allowed to William Redington Ten shillings  
for serving the Town as a Schoolmaster in y<sup>e</sup> year 1731  
voted 5-10-0  
Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1732: Received of Mr Ivory Hovey  
Town Treasurer the sum of fifty pounds in full for my half  
years Salary from September 2: 1731 to March 2: 1732  
by Mr John Emerson  
A True Copy of the receipt Given by Mr Emerson:  
Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

1902750

Boston May 26 1731  
Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield by Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould  
Ten Pounds Eleven Shillings & three pence interest to the  
1 June 1731 for M<sup>r</sup> Treasurer Allen P Esq Swam  
A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of  
Topsfield such as are Qualified as the Law Directs for vot-  
ing are hereby Notified and warned to Convene together at  
the meeting house on Wednesday the seventeenth day of  
this instant May; at two of the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon  
1 To Choose a Representative to serve at the great and

General Court.  
2 To see what the Town will do Concerning their being  
bind for want of [a] Schoolmaster  
3 To see how the Town will improve the interest of the  
Loan Money

Dated Topsfield May the 22<sup>th</sup> 1732 Thomas Gould  
John Perkins Constable of Topsfield Joseph Norman  
George Hixxy  
Richard Towne  
Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1732  
1 Mr John Hovey is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen to serve for and Represent  
the Town at y<sup>e</sup> General Court  
3 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett & Mr Ivory Hovey are Chosen  
Agents for the Town To make Application to the Judges of  
the Inferior Court at the next General Sessions of the peace  
in the County of Essex. To try if they can get the sum



Abated which the Town is fined for want of a Schoolmaster  
voted

4 The Town agreed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Towns part of the intrest of the Loan Money shall be Disposed of in Manner following viz: Twelve shillings thereof is Allowed to the Trustees for their trouble about the sd Loan in this Instant Month: and the remaining part thereof of which is four pound thirteen shillings & seven pence: the s<sup>d</sup> Trustees are to deliver to the Committe for the School in order to pay the Schoolmaster as far as that will goe.  
voted

Boston May 31: 1732

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield for the £ 60000. ten pounds Eleven shillings and three pence Intrest to June 1732. by Mr Jacob Peabody, for Mr Treasurer Allen.

Pr Eben Swan

Boston May 31<sup>st</sup> 1732

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Samuel Bradstreet Constable of Topsfield sixty pounds five shillings and Six pence in full: by mr Jacob Peabody, for Mr Treasurer Allen,

Pr Eben Swan

The two Receipts Last Entred are True Copies attest Jacob Peabody To<sup>n</sup> Cle

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Lawfully Quallified for Voting are hereby Notified to Convene together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> fourteenth of this Instant Month at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon on sd day.

1 To Chuse Jury men for Newbery Court according to Warrant

2 To See if y<sup>e</sup> Town will give y<sup>e</sup> Committy y<sup>t</sup> was Chosen to seat y<sup>e</sup> People in the Meeting house, Instructions: or Chuse a New Committe, if they Refuse to serve.

3 To see if the Town will Chuse a man to go and know the Reason y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> fish Courses upon Ipswich River be not opened according order

and to Doe any other thing or things y<sup>t</sup> shall be thought Needful on s<sup>d</sup> day.

And Also to Allow Bills of Charge.

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield September y<sup>e</sup> 9<sup>th</sup> 1732. Richard Towne by John Perkins Constable of Topsfield order of Selectmen





At A Legall Town meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1732

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 William Rogers & David Commings are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery voted

3 Joseph Bordman, John Hovey, John Willdes, Joshua Towne, & E:dmund Towne are Chosen a Committe to New seat y<sup>e</sup> People; in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house. voted

4 the s<sup>d</sup> Committe to observe y<sup>e</sup> following Instructions in seating, viz. To show respect to persons above sixty years of age before Money in younger men and then to seat the rest of y<sup>e</sup> People according as they or their predecessors paid to y<sup>e</sup> Last years Rates voted

5 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Agent for y<sup>e</sup> Town; to Joyn with y<sup>e</sup> Agent for the Town of Reading, to Inquire of the owners of the Severall Mills on Ipswich River, to know the reason why they have not Made Convenient waists in their Respective Mill Dams for a passage for fish, agreeable to an order of the General Court, bearing date January 21: 1731. And in Case the owners of the several Mill dams, Mentioned in sd order of Court, or Either of them, shall refuse, or any Longer Neglect, to make a Convenient Waist in Each of their Respective Mill dams, for the free passing & repassing of fish According to s<sup>d</sup> order of the General Court; then y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> agent is to Petition to y<sup>e</sup> General Court with y<sup>e</sup> agent for Reading, in order to git the same Effectd voted

6 The Town Allowed Ten pound, six shillings, & five pence, to the Committe for the School, Which (with 1<sup>l</sup>-13<sup>s</sup>-7<sup>d</sup> which is already allowed) is to pay the Schoolmaster for five Months Service voted 10-6-5

7 The Town allowed one pound Twelve shillings, to the Committe for y<sup>e</sup> School to pay the widow Dorothy Robison for boarding the schoolmaster one month this summer

The Town allowed four pounds Nine shillings to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey for work done by Nathan Hood on y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house & for oyl, Nails & Spanish brown in 1732 voted 4 9 0

9 the Town allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey Ten shillings for his trouble in taking the Care of repairing the Meeting house voted 0 10 0

for his trouble in taking the care of repairing the Meeting house  
 9 the Town allowed to Mr. Ivory Hovey Ten shillings  
 & for 4/1 Nails & Spanish brown in 1732 voted 5 0 0  
 The Town allowed four pounds Nine shillings to Mr. Ivory  
 for boarding the schoolmaster one month this summer  
 Committee for y<sup>e</sup> School to pay the widow Dorothy Kobson  
 7 The Town allowed one pound Twelve shillings to the  
 five Months Service voted 10-6-2  
 y<sup>d</sup> which is already allowed) is to pay the Schoolmaster for  
 pence, to the Committee for the School, Which (with 1-13-  
 6 The Town Allowed Ten pound, six shillings & five  
 Reading, in order to fit the same collected voted  
 5<sup>d</sup> agent is to Petition to y<sup>e</sup> General Court with y<sup>e</sup> agent for  
 of fish According to 5<sup>d</sup> order of the General Court then y<sup>e</sup>  
 their Respective Mill dams, for the free passing & repassing  
 longer Neglect, to make a Convenient Waist in Each of  
 in an order of Court, or Either of them, shall refuse, or any  
 And in Case the owners of the several Mill dams, Mentioned  
 order of the General Court, bearing date January 21: 1731.  
 Respective Mill Dams for a passage for fish, agreeable to an  
 reason why they have not Made Convenient waists in their  
 owners of the several Mills on Ipswich River, to know the  
 with y<sup>e</sup> Agent for the Town of Reading, to Inquire of the  
 2 Jacob Penbody is Chosen Agent for y<sup>e</sup> Town: to Joyne  
 seasons paid to y<sup>e</sup> Last years Rates  
 seat the test of y<sup>e</sup> People according as they or their prede-  
 years of age before Money in younger men and then to  
 in seating viz. To show respect to persons above sixty  
 4 the 2<sup>d</sup> Committee to observe y<sup>e</sup> following Instructions  
 seat y<sup>e</sup> People; in y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house. voted  
 Town, & H. Simon Towne are Chosen a Committee to New  
 3 Joseph Bondman, John Hovey, John Willden, Joshua  
 holder at Newbery  
 serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court to be  
 2 William Rogers & David Cummings are Chosen to  
 ing  
 1 Cap. John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meet-  
 At A. J. Fall Town meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>r</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1732



10 the Town allowed to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey sixteen shillings for his time & Expences in gitting off the fine which was Laid upon y<sup>e</sup> Town for want of a Schoolmaster voted 0 16 0

11 The Town Allowed Sixteen shillings to Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett for his time And Expences in gitting off the fine which was Laid upon the Town for want of a Schoolmaster  
voted 0 16 0

12 The Town Allowed Ten shillings to Jacob Peabody for his trouble in taking Care of repairing the Meeting house  
voted 0 10 0

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield, such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting, are hereby Notified, and warned to Conven together, at the Meeting house in Topsfield, on Tuseday the Seventh of this Instant Month, at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in the after noon.

1 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will raise money to defray the Town Charges.

2 To see if the Town will see fit To Build seats or pews in the Meeting house or give any other person or persons Leave.

3 To see if the Town will provide Samuel Howlett, a way to Come at his Meadow, on the south side of the River.

4 To Allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield November y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> 1732. Richard Towne by  
Thomas Dwinel Constable of Topsfield. order of the  
Selectmen of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield November 7<sup>th</sup>  
1732

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 John Hovey is Chosen to Enter the votes at this meeting  
voted

3 The Town agreed to raise sixty five pounds, to defray Town Charges And for our Deputy Dea<sup>n</sup> Jacob Peabody if need be  
voted

4 The Town allowed to mr Eliezer Lake & mr George Bixby three pound for money they have paid to the School-master  
voted

for the Town allowed to Mr. Ivory Hovey sixteen shillings for his time & Expenses in giving off the fine which was laid upon y<sup>e</sup> Town for want of a Schoolmaster voted a 10 0

11 The Town Allowed Sixteen shillings to Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howett for his time And Expenses in giving off the fine which was laid upon the Town for want of a Schoolmaster voted a 10 0

12 The Town Allowed Ten shillings to Jacob Peabody for his trouble in taking Care of repairing the Meeting house voted a 10 0

The freemen and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield, such as are Qualified at the Law Directs for voting, are hereby Notified, and wanted to Convene together at the Meeting house in Topsfield, on Tuesday the seventh of this Instant Month, at one of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in the after noon

1 To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will raise money to defray the Town

Charge  
2 To see if the Town will see fit To Build seats or pews in the Meeting house or give any other person or persons Leave

3 To see if the Town will provide Samuel Howett a way to Come at his Meadow, on the south side of the River

4 To Allow Bill of Charge  
Dated Topsfield November 7<sup>th</sup> 1732. Richard Towns by Thomas Daniel Constable of Topsfield

Selection of Topsfield  
At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield November 7<sup>th</sup> 1732

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
2 John Hovey is Chosen to Enter the votes at this meeting

3 The Town agreed to raise sixty five pounds, to defray Town Charges And for our Deputy Dea<sup>r</sup> Jacob Peabody is need be

4 The Town allowed to Mr. Elster Lake & Mr. George Hixby three pound for money they have paid to the Schoolmaster

voted

5 The Town agreed that there shall be seats built upon the East, South and West sides of the meeting house where there is Convenient places (not formerly Granted) upon the Towns Cost voted

There is taken up by John Wildes of Topsfield, a Bay horse with a black Tail & Main, about thirteen hands high: the sd horse hath no brand nor Ear mark: but is a very Large Trotter.

Rec<sup>d</sup> to be put on Record November y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1732

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Lawfully Quallified for voting: are hereby Notified To Conven together at the Meeting house, on Tuseday the sixth of March Next at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in the morning

1 To Choose a Town Clerk Constables, Selectmen Town Treasurer & other Town Officers as the Law directs. 2<sup>ly</sup> To see if the Town will Grant Liberty to Mr Jacob Towne to Erect a third gate upon the highway between the said Towne and Mr Redington: also to see if the Town will Let them Improve the way in the Common Lott

3<sup>ly</sup> To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich Court 4<sup>ly</sup> To allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield february y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1732-3 Richard Towne  
Thomas Dwinel Constable of Topsfield by order of  
the selectmen

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1732-3

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year En-  
suing voted

3 Samuel Smith & Doc<sup>t</sup> Michael Dwinel are Chosen Con-  
stables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

4 En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen town Treasurer for the year  
Ensuing voted

5 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett, David Balch, John Wildes, William  
Redington, and Tobijah Perkins, are Chosen selectmen for  
y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 John Hovey is Chosen scaller of Leather for the year  
Ensuing voted



2 The Town agreed that there shall be seats built upon the East, South and West sides of the meeting house where there is convenient places (not formerly granted) upon the Towns Cost

There is taken up by John Wilkes of Topsfield, a Bay horse with a black Tail & Mane, about thirteen hands high; the ad horse hath no brand nor Ear mark: but is a very Large Trotter.

Recd to be put on Record November 7<sup>th</sup> 1732

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Lawfully Qualified for voting: are hereby Notified To Convene together at the Meeting house, on Tuesday the sixth of March Next at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in the morning

1 To Choose a Town Clerk Constables, Selectmen Town Treasurer & other Town Officers as the Law directs. 2<sup>nd</sup> To see if the Town will Grant Liberty to Mr Jacob Towne to Erect a third gate upon the highway between the said Towne and Mr Redington: also to see if the Town will let them Improve the way in the Common Land

3<sup>rd</sup> To Choose Jurymen for Ipswich County To allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield February 7<sup>th</sup> 1732-3 Richard Towne Thomas Dwinel Constable of Topsfield by order of the selectmen

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1732-3

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year Ending voted

3 Samuel Smith & Doc<sup>t</sup> Michael Dwinel are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending voted

4 Ben<sup>y</sup> Ivory, Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for the year Ending voted

5 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett, David Balch, John Wilkes, William Redington and Tobias Perkins, are Chosen selectmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending voted

6 John Hovey is Chosen assessor of Leathers for the year Ending voted

7 Aaron Estey, Jonathan Perkins, & Daniel Gould, are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

8 Joseph Andrew, Matthew Peabody, and Joshua Towne are Chosen Surveyers of highways for the year Ensuing voted

9 Mr Joseph Herrick, & mr Joseph Towne are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

10 John Dwinel, & Samuel Boyd, are Chosen Hogreaves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

11 The Town Allowed Twelve pound to the Committee for y<sup>e</sup> School to pay the Schoolmaster for the Last four Months Service in keeping School voted 12 00 00

12 The Town allowed Ten shillings to Jacob Redington for a Tun of white oak Timber voted 00 10 00

13 The Town Allowed Ten shillings to Quar<sup>mr</sup> Nath<sup>ll</sup> Bordman for his Service at Boston in Trying to prevent Middleton's being made a Township voted 00 10 00

14 The Town allowed Twenty shillings to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey for his trouble in Serveing as Town Treasurer for four years Last past voted 1 0 0

15 The Town Allowed Twenty five pounds, thirteen shilling to Jacob Peabody for Representing the Town at the General Court in y<sup>e</sup> year past voted 25 13 0

16 The Town Allowed two shillings to En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey for Timber to Mend the high ways in 1731 & 1732 voted 0 2 0

The Several Officers Chosen at the above said Meeting: which the Law Requires to be Sworn: All appeared at the house of Mr Daniel Clark Innholder in Topsfield: immediately after the said Meeting was over and then took the oath belonging to their Respective offices. Excepting Aaron Estey

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> 1732-3

1 Mr Joseph Herrick is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Mr Nath<sup>ll</sup> Bordman is Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> grand jury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Mr Phineas Redington, and mr Solomon Gould, are Chosen to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich for y<sup>e</sup> County of Essex voted

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March 7, 20<sup>th</sup> 1732-3

1 Mr Joseph Hittick is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
 2 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Borden is Chosen to serve on 7<sup>th</sup> Grand Jury for 7<sup>th</sup> year Ensuing  
 3 Mr Phineas Redington, and Mr Solomon Gould, are Chosen to serve on 7<sup>th</sup> Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich for 7<sup>th</sup> County of Essex voted

The Several Officers Chosen at the above said Meeting; which the Law Requires to be Sworn: All appeared at the house of Mr Daniel Clark Innholder in Topsfield: immediately after the said Meeting was over and then took the oath belonging to their Respective offices. Excepting Aaron Estey.

16 The Town Allowed two shillings to En<sup>ly</sup> Ivory Hovey for Timber to Mend the high ways in 1731 & 1732  
 15 The Town Allowed Twenty five pounds thirteen shillings to Jacob Parbody for Representing the Town at the General Court in 7<sup>th</sup> year past  
 14 The Town Allowed twenty shillings to En<sup>ly</sup> Ivory Hovey for his trouble in Serving as Town Treasurer for four years last past  
 13 The Town Allowed Ten shillings to Quarr<sup>l</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Borden for his Service at Boston in Trying to prevent Misdemeanors being made a Township  
 12 The Town Allowed Ten shillings to Jacob Redington for a Tun of white oak Timber  
 11 The Town Allowed Twelve pounds to the Committee for 7<sup>th</sup> School to pay the Schoolmaster for the Last four Months Service in Keeping School  
 10 John Daniel & Samuel Boyd, are Chosen Heggrovers for 7<sup>th</sup> year Ensuing  
 9 Mr Joseph Hittick, & Mr Joseph Towne are Chosen the Chosen Surveyors of highways for the year Ensuing voted  
 8 Joseph Andrews, Matthew Parbody, and Joshua Towne, are Chosen Tythingmen for 7<sup>th</sup> year Ensuing  
 7 Aaron Estey, Jonathan Fickett & Daniel Gould, are



4 Mr Thomas Gould, Mr Nathaniel Porter & Mr David Balch: are Chosen A Committe to provide a Schoolmaster for the Town. for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 The Town agreed that swine shall or May go at Large the year Ensuing they being well yoked and ringed as the Law Directs voted

6 The Town Allowed four shillings to Jacob Peabody for damage done to Joseph Hows Ladder when in the Towns Use voted

7 The Town Allowed to John Perkins one pound Eight shillings for sweeping y<sup>e</sup> meeting house y<sup>e</sup> Last year voted

8 The Town Allowed five shillings: to Thomas Perkins for an Iron Cap for the top of the vein post on the meeting house it was put on in 1731 voted

9 The Town Allowed one pound one shilling to Joshua Towne it being an abatement of the Rates for Eben<sup>r</sup> Russells head voted

We the Subscribers Being appointed by y<sup>e</sup> selectmen of our several Towns viz Wenham and Topsfield to Renew, & Perambulate bounds between our Respective Towns as the Law directs, have Accordingly Attended s<sup>d</sup> Service and have Renewed the bounds, according to settlement of the Bounds Between our towns in the year 1682: which bounds we do agree unto as witness our hands.

Dat<sup>d</sup> in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1733

Tho<sup>s</sup> Tarbox  
Benjamin ffisk

A True Copy of the return of perambulation with Wenham attest Jacob Peabody Town Cle:

John Perkins  
Will<sup>m</sup> Reddington.

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law Directs, are hereby Notified and warned to Convene together at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Tusday y<sup>e</sup> fifteenth day of May Currant at one of the Clock afternoon then and there to Elect and Depute a Man to serve for and Represent our Town in a Great and General Court or Assembly to be Convened held & kept for his Majesties service at y<sup>e</sup> Court house in Boston up[on] Wednesday the thirtieth Day of May Instant, and to see how y<sup>e</sup> will order or agree that the School shall be kept and in what part of the Town and how often

4 Mr Thomas Gould, Mr Nathaniel Porter & Mr David  
 Balch: are Chosen A Committee to provide a Schoolmaster  
 for the Town for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing  
 5 The Town agreed that within shall of May go at Large  
 the year ensuing they being well voted and ringed as the  
 Law Directs  
 6 The Town Allowed four shillings to Jacob Peabody for  
 damage done to Joseph Hows Ladder when in the Towns  
 Use  
 7 The Town Allowed to John Perkins one pound Eight  
 shillings for sweeping y<sup>e</sup> meeting house y<sup>e</sup> Last year voted  
 8 The Town Allowed five shillings to Thomas Perkins  
 for an Iron Cap for the top of the vein post on the meeting  
 house it was put on in 1731  
 9 The Town Allowed one pound one shilling to Joshua  
 Towne it being an abatement of the Rates for Eben<sup>r</sup> Ras-  
 sells head  
 We the Subscribers Being appointed by y<sup>e</sup> selectmen of  
 our several Towns viz Wrenham and Topsfield to Renew &  
 Perambulate bounds between our Respective Towns as the  
 Law directs have Accordingly Attended y<sup>e</sup> Service and have  
 Renewed the bounds according to settlement of the hands  
 Between our towns in the year 1682: which bounds we do  
 agree unto as witness our hands  
 Dat<sup>d</sup> in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1733  
 The Twpox  
 Benjamin Misk  
 John Perkins  
 Wm<sup>th</sup> Redington  
 A True Copy of the return of peten  
 bulson with Wrenham attes Jacob  
 Peabody Town Cio:

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of  
 Topsfield such as are Qualified for Voting as the Law Di-  
 rected are hereby Notified and warned to Convene together  
 at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> fifth  
 day of May Current at one of the Clock afternoon then and  
 there to Elect and Depute a Man to serve for and Represent  
 our Town in a Great and General Court or Assembly to be  
 Convened held & kept for his Majesties service at y<sup>e</sup> Court  
 house in Boston upon Wednesday the thirtieth Day of May  
 Instant and to see how y<sup>e</sup> will order or agree that the School  
 shall be kept and in what part of the Town and how often



to be removed and to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will allow a gate to be hanged across the Road beyond Nathan Bixbys house and to allow Bills of Charge

John Howlett	}	Selectmen
Tobijah Perkins		of
William Reddington		Topsfield

Michael Dwinel Constable of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> 1733

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen to serve for & Represent y<sup>e</sup> Town at y<sup>e</sup> Great and General Court to be held & kept at y<sup>e</sup> Town house in Boston on y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> day of May Currant and so in y<sup>e</sup> several Sessions of s<sup>d</sup> Court till it be dissolved voted

3 The Town allowed six shillings To Nathaniel Porter, Joseph Town and John Wildes for Perambulating with Salem men on y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> day of Aprill 1733

4 The Town allowed Eighteen shillings To Eliezer Lake, Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody Trustees for y<sup>e</sup> Towns Last Loan for their trouble in taking in the intrest of said Loan this year voted 00 18 00

5 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>tee</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> School viz mr Tho<sup>s</sup> Gould Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter, & mr David Balch, four pound Twelve shillings to pay the Schoolmaster for his service one Month in keeping school he boarding himself voted 4-12-0

6 The Town Allowed six pounds to Jacob Peabody for his serving at the General Court in Aprill Last voted 6-0-0

We the subscribers being Appointed to perambulate and renew the Bounds between Salem and Topsfield accordingly mett on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1733 and renewed the bounds Beginning at a white oak tree marked S. W. T. with a heap of stones round it near Wenham Caseway, and from thence to a black or red oak tree & stump with stones between y<sup>e</sup> said tree is standing in Bixby's orchard and marked S. T. & from thence to a heap of stones near the Corner of Thomas Dwinells pasture, and from thence to a heap of stones near Nickols's Brook a little above the saw mill and so on the same course to Nickols's Brook.

Nathaniel Porter	}	for	John Higginson	}	for
Joseph Town		Topsfield	John Cabot Jun <sup>r</sup>		Salem
John Wilds			John Ward		



to be removed and to see if the Town will allow a gate to be  
hanged across the Road beyond Nathan Dix's house and to  
allow Bills of Change

Selection  
of  
Topsfield

John Howlett  
Tobias Perkins  
William Reddington

Michael Dwinel Constable of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town-Meeting in Topsfield May 7<sup>th</sup> 1733

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meet-  
ing

2 Jacob Parbody is Chosen to serve for the R<sup>g</sup> present y<sup>r</sup>  
Town at y<sup>e</sup> Great and General Court to be held & kept at y<sup>e</sup>

Town house in Boston on y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> day of May Current and  
so in y<sup>e</sup> several Sessions of y<sup>e</sup> Court till it be dissolved voted

3 The Town allowed six shillings To Nathaniel Porter  
Joseph Town and John Wilder for Transporting with Salem

men on y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1733

4 The Town allowed Eighteen shillings To Elizer Lake  
Tobias Perkins & Jacob Parbody Trustees for y<sup>e</sup> Towns Last

Loan for their trouble in taking in the Interest of said Loan  
this year voted on 18 00

5 The Town Allowed to y<sup>e</sup> Com<sup>rs</sup> for y<sup>e</sup> School six m<sup>t</sup>  
Two Gould Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter & Mr David Ralph four p<sup>er</sup> cent

Twelve shillings to pay the Schoolmaster for his service one  
Month in keeping school he boarding himself voted 4-12-0

6 The Town Allowed six pounds to Jacob Parbody for  
his serving at the General Court in April Last voted 6-0-0

We the subscribers being Appointed to perambulate and  
renew the Bounds between Salem and Topsfield accordingly

mett on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1733 and renewed the bounds be-  
tween at a white oak tree marked S. W. T. with a heap

of stones round it near Wechsaw Caseway, and from thence  
to a black or red oak tree & stump with stones between y<sup>e</sup>

said tree is standing in Dixy's orchard and marked S. T.  
& from thence to a heap of stones near the Corner of Thom-

as Dwinells pasture, and from thence to a heap of stones  
near Nichols's Brook a little above the saw mill and so on the

same course to Nichols's Brook.

John Higginson  
John Cabot Jan<sup>y</sup>  
John Ward

for  
Topsfield  
John Wilder  
Joseph Town  
Nathaniel Porter

This is a True Copy of the Return of Perambulation with Salem attest. Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

We the Subscribers being appointed to perambulate and renew the Bounds between Topsfield and Boxford accordingly mett on the 4<sup>th</sup> of May 1733 and renewed the bounds. Begining at the Apple tree in Cap<sup>t</sup> Perleys field to a stake and heap of stones at the southeasterly corner of m<sup>r</sup> Bakers farm now in Boxford and from thence to a damm called Andrews damm near to m<sup>r</sup> Thomas Goulds Hous and from thence (being the place where the water now runs under said damm) southerly to a stake and heap of stones by the fishing Brook on the easterly side of the Revolet running into said Brook and thence as s<sup>d</sup> Brook runs into the River called Ipswich River and thence up said River to Middleton line

Thomas Perley	} for Boxford	Joseph Andrew	} for Topsfield
Jeremiah Perley		Tobijah Perkins	
Nath <sup>l</sup> Symonds		John Wilds	

A True Copy of the Return of Perambulation with Boxford  
Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Boston May 31: 1733

Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield Ten pound Eleven shillings & three pence Intrest to y<sup>e</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> June 1733 for Mr Treasurer Allen. P<sup>r</sup> Eben<sup>r</sup> Swan

This is a True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Topsfield July y<sup>e</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> 1732

Received of Mr Eliezer Lake & mr George Bixby two of the School Committe for the Town of Topsfield the sum of Nine pounds being in full as p agreement for three Months teaching School in said Town I say Rec<sup>d</sup>

P me Thomas Hicks

Topsfield October 19<sup>th</sup> 1732. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr George Bixby one of the School Committe for the Town of Topsfield, the sum of Nine pounds it being in full for a Quarters teaching School in said Town I say Rec<sup>d</sup>

P<sup>r</sup> me Tho<sup>s</sup> Hicks.

Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1732-3. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr George Bixby and Mr Eliezer Lake School Committe for the Town of Topsfield: the sum of Twelve pounds for four months





teaching School in said Town I say Rec<sup>d</sup>

P me Tho<sup>s</sup> Hicks

The three Receipts Last Entred are True Copies Attest  
Jacob Peabody T: Cler.

Topsfield October 30: 1732.

Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of  
Six pounds in full for my Last years salary from March 2<sup>nd</sup>  
1732 to September 2: 1732

pr me John Emerson

Topsfield Aprill 4<sup>th</sup> 1733. Received of m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey  
Town Treasurer the Sum of Twenty five pounds which is y<sup>e</sup>  
full of this within written order; and which is in full of my  
Last years salary from September 2: 1732 to March 2:  
1733.

As witness my hand

John Emerson.

The two Receipts Last Entred are True Copies attest  
Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Topsfield January 19<sup>th</sup> 1732-33 Then Received of Mr  
Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of one pound twelve  
shillings in full for my keeping the Schoolmaster the space  
of one month I say received by me her

Dorothy X Robinson  
mark

This is A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler.

The ffreeholders, and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of  
Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law Directs  
are hereby Notified and Warned to Convene together at y<sup>e</sup>  
Meeting house in Topsfield, on Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> Day of Sep-  
tember Currant at one of the Clock after noon: then and  
there to Choose two men according to Warrant: to serve on  
y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls to be holden at Newbery on y<sup>e</sup> Last  
Tuseday of this instant September: and to see how Much  
Money the Town will agree to raise to Defray Town Charges;  
and to see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will Do Concerning hanging and  
Maintaining a gate on y<sup>e</sup> way y<sup>t</sup> goeth through Mr John  
Andrew's Land to Boxford: And to see how the Town will  
agree to Dispose of y<sup>e</sup> intrest of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Loan Money for  
y<sup>e</sup> Last year. and to see if ye Town will abate Lieu<sup>t</sup> Goulds  
Rate Layd to him y<sup>e</sup> Last year for Andrew Mecanes head:  
and to allow bills Charg





Dat<sup>d</sup> September y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1733.

John Howlet Tobijah Perkins  
David Balch John Wildes  
[Torn] Town of Topsfield William Redington Selectmen  
of Topsfi<sup>d</sup>

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield Sept<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 18<sup>th</sup> 1733

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> & John Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen to  
serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at y<sup>e</sup> Next Inferiour Court to be  
holden at Newbery voted

3 Voted that the selectmen shall Raise a Tax of one hun-  
dred and sixty five pounds for y<sup>e</sup> Ministry, and to defray the  
other Town Charges this year voted

4 Voted that the Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Loan shall have  
Eighteen shillings of y<sup>e</sup> intrest of said Loan for their trouble  
in said Trust in y<sup>e</sup> Last year it being allowed to them on y<sup>e</sup>  
fifteenth of May Last o<sup>l</sup> 18<sup>s</sup> o<sup>d</sup>

And the Remaining part of s<sup>d</sup> intrest which is four pound  
seven shillings and seven pence shall go to pay Jacob Pea-  
body part of y<sup>e</sup> six pound y<sup>t</sup> was allowed to him by y<sup>e</sup> Town  
on y<sup>e</sup> 15<sup>th</sup> Day of May Last

5 The Town allowed Two shillings to Mr Daniel Clark for  
perambulating with Wenham men in y<sup>e</sup> year 1727  
voted 0 2 0

6 The Town allowed four shillings to William Redding-  
ton & John Perkins for Perambulating on y<sup>e</sup> Line with Wen-  
ham men in 1733 voted 0 4 0

7 The Town allowed Eight shillings to Matthew Peabody  
for Timber for bridges 1733 0 8 0

8 The Town Allowed six shillings to David Commings for  
Timber for highways 1733 0 6 0

9 The Town Allowed one shilling & six pence to Benj<sup>a</sup>  
Towne for Timber for hiways 0 1 0

Boston October 4<sup>th</sup> 1733. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Thomas Dwinel  
Constable of Topsfield by mr Jacob Peabody Twenty pounds  
six shillings & Ten pence in full

P Jer. Allen Treasurer

A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk



1733. September 14<sup>th</sup>.

[TOWN] Town of Topsfield  
 William Redington Selectmen  
 David Balch John Wilkes  
 John Hewlet Tobias Perkins  
 of Topsfield

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>r</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1733  
 1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Hewlet is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
 voted  
 2 Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> & John Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen to  
 serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Trials at y<sup>e</sup> Next Inferiour Court to be  
 holden at Newbury  
 3 Voted that the selectmen shall Raise a Tax of one hun-  
 dred and sixty five pounds for y<sup>e</sup> Ministry, and to delay the  
 other Town Charges this year  
 4 Voted that the Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Town Loan shall have  
 Eighteen shillings of y<sup>e</sup> interest of said Loan for their trouble  
 in said Trust in y<sup>e</sup> Last year it being allowed to them on y<sup>e</sup>  
 15<sup>th</sup> of May Last  
 5 Add the Remaining part of y<sup>e</sup> interest which is four pound  
 seven shillings and seven pence shall go to pay Jacob Per-  
 kins body part of y<sup>e</sup> six pound y<sup>e</sup> was allowed to him by y<sup>e</sup> Town  
 on y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> Day of May Last  
 6 The Town allowed Two shillings to Mr Daniel Clark for  
 perambulating with Wrenham men in y<sup>e</sup> year 1732  
 7 The Town allowed four shillings to William Reding-  
 ton & John Perkins for Perambulating on y<sup>e</sup> Line with Wen-  
 ham men in 1732  
 8 The Town allowed Eight shillings to Matthew Feabody  
 for Timber for bridges 1732  
 9 The Town Allowed six shillings to David Cummings for  
 Timber for highways 1732  
 10 The Town Allowed one shilling & six pence to Hen<sup>r</sup>  
 Towne for Timber for highways  
 Boston October 4<sup>th</sup> 1733. Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Thomas Dainid  
 Constable of Topsfield by Mr Jacob Feabody Twenty pounds  
 six shillings & Ten pence in full  
 A True Copy attest Jacob Feabody Town Clerk  
 P<sup>r</sup> J<sup>r</sup> Allen Treasurer

Boston June 20<sup>th</sup> 1732

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Matthew Peabody Constable of Topsfield  
Twenty one pound six shillings in full for Mr Treasurer  
Allen: by mr Jacob Peabody

P Eben<sup>r</sup> Swan

A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law Directs: are hereby notified and warned to Convene together at the meeting house in Topsfield: on fryday the fourteenth Day of December Currant at one A Clock afternoon then and there to see what they will Do (or order to be done) with y<sup>e</sup> watch house: And to see what the Town will do Concerning a school house, Whither to Erect one or not: And to make up accompts with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer: And to make up accompts with Mr Luke Averill Concerning some moncy that he Received of Out Towns men towards our Ministers or Town Rate when he was Constable; which he has not given an account of: And to allow bills of Charge

John Howlett

Tobijah Perkins

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Decembr 7<sup>th</sup> 1733

David Balch

William Reddington

Samuel Smith Constable of Topsfield Selectmen of Tops

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield December 14<sup>th</sup> 1733

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 Mr Daniel Clark, & m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Herrick are Chosen a Committe; to Reckon with the Town Treasurer; and mr William Reddington y<sup>e</sup> Clark of the present selectmen is to Assist them in the said service voted

3 And said Committe are to make Report of their doings in that affair: at the annual Town Meeting in March Next voted

4 The Town Allowed Twenty three pounds to the School Committee; to pay the Schoolmaster for his service in keeping School; and for his board five months past voted

of my Last years salary from the  
2<sup>nd</sup> 1733 as witness my hand John Emerson

Recd of Mr Matthew Redbody Constable of Topsfield  
Twenty one pound six shillings in full for Mr Treasurer  
Alfred by Mr Jacob Redbody

A True Copy Attest  
Jacob Redbody Town Clerk  
P. Eber Swan

The freholders & other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are qualified for Voting as the Law Directs are hereby notified and warned to Convene together at the meeting house in Topsfield: on Friday the fourteenth Day of December Current at one A Clock afternoon then and there to see what they will do (or order to be done) with the watch house; And to see what the Town will do Concerning a school house. Whither to Erect one or not; And to make up accounts with the Town Treasurer: And to make up accounts with Mr Luke Avenell Concerning some money that he Received of Out Towns men towards our Ministers or Town Rate when he was Constable; which he has not given an account of; And to allow bills of Charge

John Howlett

Tobias Perkins

David Balch

William Reddington

Samuel Smith Constable of Topsfield  
Selectmen of Topsfield  
Dat<sup>s</sup> Topsfield Decemb<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1733

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield December 14<sup>th</sup> 1733

Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

Mr Daniel Clark & Mr Joseph Herrick are Chosen a Committee to Reckon with the Town Treasurer; and Mr William Reddington y<sup>e</sup> Clerk of the present selectmen is to Assist them in the said service

3 And said Committee are to make Report of their doings in that affair: at the annual Town Meeting in March Next

4 The Town Allowed Twenty three pounds to the School Committee; to pay the Schoolmaster for his service in keeping School; and for his board five months past



5 The Town Allowed thirteen shillings to Joseph Andrew for Isaac Peabody for Timber to mend the Bridge by Jesse Dormans & that near Jacob Peabodys: voted

6 The Town Allowed to Joseph Andrew surveyer Two shillings & six pence for Jacob Averill for six slabs to mend Mile brook Bridge this year voted

7 The Town allowed to Joseph Andrew for John<sup>r</sup> Perkins five shillings for Timber to mend the bridge between s<sup>d</sup> Perkinses and Joshua Towns house this year voted

Topsfield December y<sup>o</sup> 14: 1733

Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Thomas Dwinel Constable y<sup>o</sup> sum sixteen shillings and four pence in full: for all y<sup>o</sup> Rates Committed to him to gather and pay to Me P<sup>r</sup> me Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer

This is a True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

December 19<sup>th</sup> 1733

There is taken up by William Rogers of Topsfield, A stray stear Come in two years old: a Dark Collour, with a star in his forehead, and some white on his hind feet: his Artificial marks are a slit in y<sup>o</sup> End of Each Ear, and a hole in y<sup>o</sup> uper side of his right Ear, and a small Crop off the End thereof and a halfpeny on y<sup>o</sup> uper side of the Left Ear

Essex ss

Dec<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1733

We the Subscribers being appointed to Perambulate the Line between the Towns of Ipswich and Topsfield, Met on y<sup>o</sup> day above said; and Perambulated said Line and Renewed the bounds in said Line by marking Trees and Laying Rocks. In witness whereof we have set our Hands the year and Day above s<sup>d</sup>

John Howlett	} Committe of Topsfield	Thomas Berry	} Committe of Ipswich
Tobijah Perkins		Benj <sup>a</sup> Crocker	
		Nathaniel Hart	
	1733	Aaron Potter	1733

A True Copy from the original Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk.

Topsfield December 11<sup>th</sup> 1733 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of fourteen pounds in full of my Last years salary from March 2<sup>d</sup> 1733 to September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1733 as witness my hand John Emerson

2 The Town Allowed thirteen shillings to Joseph Andrews for Isaac Peabody for Timber to mend the Bridge by Jesse Dorman & that near Jacob Peabody's; voted  
 3 The Town Allowed to Joseph Andrews surveyer Two shillings & six pence for Jacob Averill for six staks to mend the Brook Bridge this year  
 4 The Town allowed to Joseph Andrews for John Perkins five shillings for Timber to mend the bridge between 2<sup>d</sup> Perkins and Joshua Towns-house this year  
 5 voted

Township December 7<sup>th</sup> 1733  
 Recd of Mr Thomas Dwyer Constable 7<sup>th</sup> sum sixteen shillings and four pence in full; for all 7<sup>th</sup> Rates Committed to him to gather and pay to Mr P<sup>r</sup> me every Hovey Town

Treasurer  
 This is a True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

December 19<sup>th</sup> 1733

There is taken up by William Rogers of Topsfield, A stray steer Come in two years old; a Dark Colour, with a star in his forehead, and some white on his hind feet; his Anterior marks are a slit in 7<sup>th</sup> End of Each Ear, and a hole in 7<sup>th</sup> upper side of his right Ear, and a small Crop off the End of the Ear and a halpenny on 7<sup>th</sup> upper side of the Left Ear

Dec<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1733

We the Subscribers being appointed to Perambulate the Line between the Towns of Ipswich and Topsfield. Met on 7<sup>th</sup> day above said; and Perambulated said Line and Renewed the bounds in said Line by marking Trees and Laying Rocks. In witness whereof we have set our Hands the year and Day above said

John Howlett } Committee  
 Josiah Perkins } of Topsfield  
 1733  
 Nathanial Hart } of Ipswich  
 Benj Crocker } Committee  
 Thomas Berry }  
 1733  
 A True Copy from the original Attest Jacob Peabody  
 Town Clerk

Topsfield December 11<sup>th</sup> 1733 Received of Mr Wm Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of fourteen pounds in full of my last years salary from March 2<sup>d</sup> 1732 to September 2<sup>d</sup> 1733 as witness my hand  
 John Emerton



A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk .

Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 1733-4 Received of m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey  
Town Treasurer the sum of Ten pounds in full for my half  
years sallary from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1733 to March 2: 1733-4  
by me John Emerson

This is a True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk  
Topsfield february y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1734-5 then Rec<sup>d</sup> of Jacob  
Peabody one of the Trustees for the Towns Loan: the sum  
of five pounds five shillings and seven pence it being the  
Towns part of the interest of the Loan Money which the  
Town at a Town Meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> 1734 ordered the Trust-  
tee to pay in to the Treasurer. I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me

Ivory Hovey

Treasurer for s<sup>d</sup> Town

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of  
Topsfield such as are Quallified for Voting as the Law Di-  
rects are hereby Notified, and warned to Assemble and meet  
together at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the  
fift Day of March next Ensuing the Date hereof at Eight of  
the Clock before noon: then and there to Choose a Town  
Clerk, and other Town officers as the Law directs; and to  
put in their votes for a County Treasurer: and to see if the  
Town will agree and give order for the buying of a Town  
Book and to see what the Town will Do Concerning School  
Cost, Referring to a Petition to us from mr Joseph Herrick  
and others, concerning y<sup>t</sup> Affair: which will appear at the  
aforesd meeting and to Chuse a Committee to see that the  
Proportionable part of the fence be Done on both parties  
between our Parsonage and mr Daniel Clarks and Dan Clarks  
Land: and to Allow bills of Charge

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield february y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> 1733-4

Samuel Smith	John Howlett	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Constable of Topsfield	John Wildes	
	David Balch	
	Tobijah Perkins	

A True Copy of the Notification for y<sup>e</sup> Annual Town meet-  
ing on y<sup>e</sup> fift of March 1733-4 Attest Jacob Peabody

Town Cler

These are to Certify those whom it may concern that the



A True Copy. Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk  
 Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1733-4 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey  
 Town Treasurer the sum of Ten pounds in full for my half  
 years salary from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1733 to March 21<sup>st</sup> 1733-4  
 by me John Emerson  
 This is a True Copy. Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk  
 Topsfield February 7<sup>th</sup> 1734-5 then Rec<sup>d</sup> of Jacob  
 Peabody one of the Trustees for the Town Loan; the sum  
 of five pounds five shillings and seven pence it being the  
 Town part of the interest of the Loan Money which the  
 Town at a Town Meeting May 14<sup>th</sup> 1734 ordered the Treas-  
 urer to pay in to the Treasurer. I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me  
 Ivory Hovey  
 Treasurer for the Town

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of  
 Topsfield such as are Qualified for Voting as the Law Di-  
 rected are hereby Notified, and wanted to Assemble and meet  
 together at the Meeting house in Topsfield on Tuesday the  
 11<sup>th</sup> Day of March next, Examining the State thereof at Eight of  
 the Clock before noon: then and there to Choose a Town  
 Clerk, and other Town officers as the Law directs; and to  
 put in their votes for a County Treasurer; and to see if the  
 Town will agree and give order for the paying of a Town  
 Book and to see what the Town will Do Concerning School  
 Cost. Referring to a Petition to us from Mr Joseph Henrich  
 and others, concerning the Affairs which will appear at the  
 aforesaid meeting and to Choose a Committee to see that the  
 proportionable part of the fence be Done on both parties  
 between our Farmhouse and Mr Daniel Clark and Dan Clark's  
 Land; and to Allow bills of Charge

Done Topsfield February 7<sup>th</sup> 1733-4

Samuel Smith  
 Constable of Topsfield  
 Tobias Perkins  
 John Whitler  
 David Hatch  
 John Howlett  
 Selection of  
 Topsfield

A True Copy of the Notification for the Annual Town meet-  
 ing on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March 1733-4  
 Attest Jacob Peabody  
 Town Clerk

These are to Certify those whom it may concern that the

several votes y<sup>t</sup> passed at the two Town meetings in Topsfield in March 1733-4 were kept on y<sup>e</sup> files and not Recorded till after this Book was bought

Jacob Peabody T Cle:

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March 5<sup>th</sup> 1733-4

- 1 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted
- 2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year Ensuing  
voted
- 3 Mr Jonathan Perkins & mr Joseph Perkins are Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 4 Mr Ivory Hovey is Chosen Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> Town for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 5 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Mr Eliezer Lake Mr Joseph Robinson and Mr Benjamin Towne are Chosen Selectmen for the year Ensuing  
voted
- 6 Mr John Hovey is Chosen sealler of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 7 Mr George Bixby, Mr David Balch & Mr William Reddington are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 8 Mr Joseph Herrick Mr Nath<sup>el</sup> Capen & Mr Joseph Peabody are Chosen Surveyers of Highwa[y]s for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 9 Mr Luke Averill and m<sup>r</sup> Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen fenceviewers for the year Ensuing  
voted
- 10 Mr Dan Clark: Mr Thomas Perkins & Amos Dorman are Chosen Hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted
- 11 Then the Town Proceeded to bring in their votes for a County Treasurer
- 12 The Town agreed to have a Town Book Bought, and ordred Jacob Peabody to buy one & to Draw money out of y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasury to Pay for it  
voted
- 13 Voted that the Town Treasurer shall Receive the sum of Eleven shillings which Mr Luke Averill had in his hands of the Towns Money & hath now Laid on y<sup>e</sup> Table
- 16 Voted that Mr Eliezer Lake & Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett be a Committee to Divide fence with Mr Daniel Clark viz. between sd Clarks first Division of Common Land and the Parsonage; and s<sup>d</sup> Committee to make up the Towns part of s<sup>d</sup> fence

several votes, passed at the two Town meetings in Town-  
held in March 1733-4 were kept on y<sup>e</sup> files and not Record-  
ed 181 after this book was bought  
Jacob Peabody T. Clk;

- At A Legal Town Meeting in Townhill March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1733-4  
1 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted
- 2 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year 1733-4  
voted
- 3 Mr Jonathan Perkins & Mr Joseph Perkins are Chosen  
voted
- Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending
- 4 Mr Ivory Hovey is Chosen Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> Town for  
voted
- y<sup>e</sup> year Ending
- 5 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Mr Eliezer Lake  
Mr Joseph Robinson and Mr Benjamin Towne are Chosen  
voted
- Selectmen for the year Ending
- 6 Mr John Hovey is Chosen Assessor of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year  
voted
- Ending
- 7 Mr George Bixby, Mr David Hatch & Mr William Red-  
dington are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending voted
- 8 Mr Joseph Henrick Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Capen & Mr Joseph Pea-  
body are Chosen Surveyors of Highways for y<sup>e</sup> year En-  
voted
- 9 Mr Luke Averill and Mr Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen  
voted
- receivers for the year Ending
- 10 Mr Dan Clark; Mr Thomas Perkins & Amos Dorman  
are Chosen Hovewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending voted
- 11 Then the Town proceeded to bring in their votes for a  
County Treasurer
- 12 The Town agreed to have a Town Book Bought, and  
ordered Jacob Peabody to pay one £ to Draw money out of  
y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasury to pay for it voted
- 13 Voted that the Town Treasurer shall Receive the sum  
of Eleven shillings which Mr Luke Averill had in his hands  
of the Towns Money & hath now Paid on y<sup>e</sup> Table
- 14 Voted that Mr Eliezer Lake & Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett be a  
Committee to Divide land with Mr Daniel Clark viz. the  
twelve sd Clark's first Division of Common Land and the first  
second; and a Committee to make up the Towns part of y<sup>e</sup>  
second



17 The Town agreed that all Such Parents or Masters that Shall Send their Children or Servants to y<sup>e</sup> Towns Schools shall pay four pence per week for each Childe or Servant for their Schooling: and the Town to Make up what is wanting to pay the Schoolmaster voted

18 Mr Jacob Dorman is Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand jury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

19 Mr John Prichitt & Mr John Wildes are Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

20 The Town allowed to the Committe for y<sup>e</sup> School Eleven pound one shilling and four pence to pay the Schoolmaster for his Service and board two Months & Twelve Days voted 11-1-4

21 The Town allowed to Benjamin How one pound Eight shillings for Sweeping the meeting house one year past voted 1 8 0

22 The Town allowed to Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett three shillings 0-3-0 for Perambulating with Ipswich men on y<sup>e</sup> Line between y<sup>e</sup> Towns in 1733 and three shillings to Mr Tobijah Perkins for y<sup>e</sup> Same Service voted 0-3-0

23 The Town allowed to mr John Wildes six shillings for Gitting Some Warrants Entred in the Courts Records of persons being warned out of Town voted

24 The Town allowed to Mr Tobijah Perkins and Mr John Wildes four Shillings for Perambulating on y<sup>e</sup> Line with Boxford men voted 0-4-0

The Several Persons Chosen to office at the afore Said Town meeting of whom an oath is Law Required: were all Sworn to the faithfull Discharge of their Respective offices immediately after the said meeting was over, before the Selectmen: Excepting Nath<sup>el</sup> Capen Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> and Joseph Peabody

Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield Such as are Lawfully Quallified for Voting are Notified and Warned to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on fryday the Twenty Second Day of March Currant at three of Clock after noon on Said Day first to Choose a Committee to Supply the Town with a School master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing.

- 17 The Town agreed that all such Parents or Masters that shall send their Children or Servants to y<sup>e</sup> Towns Schools shall pay four pence per week for each Child or Servant for their Schooling; and the Town to Make up what is wanting to pay the Schoolmaster  
voted
- 18 Mr Jacob Dorman is Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending  
voted
- 19 Mr John Pritchett & Mr John Wilder are Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich  
voted
- 20 The Town allowed to the Committee for y<sup>e</sup> School Eleven pound one shilling and four pence to pay the Schoolmaster for his Service and board two Months & Twelve Days  
voted
- 21 The Town allowed to Benjamin How one pound Eight shillings for Sweeping the meeting house one year past  
voted 1 8 0
- 22 The Town allowed to Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett three shillings 0-3-0 for Perambulation with Ipswich men on y<sup>e</sup> Line between y<sup>e</sup> Towns in 1733 and three shillings to Mr Tobias Perkins for y<sup>e</sup> Same Service  
voted 0-3-0
- 23 The Town allowed to Mr John Wilder six shillings for Giving Some Warrants Entered in the Courts Records of persons being warned out of Town  
voted
- 24 The Town allowed to Mr Tobias Perkins and Mr John Wilder four shillings for Perambulation on y<sup>e</sup> Line with the Lord men  
voted 0-4-0
- 25 The Several Persons Chosen to office at the above Said Town meeting of whom an oath is Law Required: were all Sworn to the faithful Discharge of their Respective offices immediately after the said meeting was over, before the Lecturer: Excepting Nath<sup>l</sup> Capen Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> and Joseph Peabody

Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield Such as are Lawfully Qualified for Voting are Notified and Warned to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Friday the Twenty Second Day of March Current at three of Clock after noon on Said Day first to Choose a Committee to Supply the Town with a School master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ending.



2 To See if the Town will Give Liberty for Swine to go at Large

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March the 14: 1733-4

Jonathan Perkins Constable of Topsfield

Nath<sup>el</sup> Porter  
Joseph Gould  
Joseph Robinson  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy of the Notification attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Cler

At A Legal Towne Meeting in Topsfield March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1733-4

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
voted

2 Voted that Swine Shall or may go at Large this year according as the Law gives Liberty.

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield, Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are hereby Warned, & Notified, to Assemble, and Meet together, at the Meeting house in Topsfield; on Tuseday the fourteenth of May Currant at one of the Clock afternoon

1 To Chuse a Representative to Serve at the Great and General Court to be hild at Boston.

2 To See if the Town will Make an addition to the Reverend Mr John Emersons Salary.

3 To See what y<sup>e</sup> Town will do Concerning a School master this year.

4 To See what y<sup>e</sup> Town will do Concerning the Carrying in the fifth part of the Loan Money, and the intrest of the whole Loan belonging to said Town.

5 To Allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield May the Tenth 1734.

Nath<sup>el</sup> Porter  
Joseph Robinson  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy of the Notification Attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Cler.

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1734

1 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted



2 To See if the Town will Give Liberty for Swine to go at

Large

D<sup>y</sup> Topsfield March the 14: 1734

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter  
Joseph Gould  
Joseph Robinson  
Henry Towne  
Selectmen of Topsfield  
Attest Jacob Peabody

A True Copy of the Notification attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield March 22<sup>nd</sup> 1734

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meet-

ing

2 Voted that Swine Shall or may go at Large this year

according as the Law gives Liberty.

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of

Topsfield, Such as are Qualified as the Law Directs for Ver-

ing are hereby Warned & Notified to Assemble, and Meet

together, at the Meeting house in Topsfield; on Tuesday the

fourteenth of May Current at one of the Clock afternoon

1 To Chuse a Representative to Serve at the Great and

General Court to be held at Boston.

2 To See if the Town will Make an addition to the Rever-

end Mr John Emersons Salary.

3 To See what the Town will do Concerning a School mas-

ter this year.

4 To See what the Town will do Concerning the Carrying

in the fifth part of the Loan Money, and the interest of the

whole Loan belonging to said Town.

5 To Allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield May the Tenth 1734.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter  
Joseph Robinson  
Henry Towne  
Selectmen of Topsfield  
Attest Jacob Peabody

A True Copy of the Notification Attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield May 14<sup>th</sup> 1734

1 Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting

voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative to Serve at y<sup>e</sup> General Court

3 The Town agreed that the Trustees Shall Carry in the first fift part of the Towns Loan to y<sup>e</sup> Province Treasurer with two thirds of y<sup>e</sup> intrest voted

4 Voted that the Trustees for sd Loan shall pay in y<sup>e</sup> intrest of sd Loan which belongs to y<sup>e</sup> Town to the Town Treasurer voted

5 The Town Allowed to John Perkins so Much Money viz our paper Currancy as Amos Robinson was Rated for his head in Said Perkins Lists when he was Constable sd Robinson having paid for his head at Lunenburg y<sup>e</sup> same year

voted

6 The Town Allowed to Ebenezer Nickols a former Constable Eight Shillings & four pence it being an abatement for Archelus Townes head voted

7 The Town Allowed to the Trustees viz Eliezer Lake Tobiasjah Perkins & Jacob Peabody Eighteen Shillings for their trouble about the Loan Money this year voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of The Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting, are hereby Notified & warned to assemble and meet together at the Meeting house in said Town on Tuseday the Twenty Eighth Day of May Currant at three of the Clock in the after noon

1 To See if the Town will agree to Make any More Seats in the Meeting house and to Do any other thing or things about Said Meeting house that the Town shall think best

2 To See What the Town will Do Concerning a School Master

3 To See if the Town will Reckon with the Town Treasurer

Dated Topsfield May the 21<sup>st</sup> 1734

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter

Jonathan Perkins Constable of Topsfield

Joseph Gould

Joseph Robinson

Benj<sup>n</sup> Towne

A True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> 1734

1 John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting

voted

2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative to Serve at y<sup>e</sup> General Court

3 The Town agreed that the Trustees Shall Carry in the first part of the Towns Loan to y<sup>e</sup> Province Treasurer with two thirds of y<sup>e</sup> interest

4 Voted that the Trustees for sd Loan shall pay in y<sup>e</sup> interest of sd Loan which belongs to y<sup>e</sup> Town to the Town Treasurer

5 The Town Allowed to John Perkins so Much Money viz our paper Currency as Amos Robinson was Rated for his head in Said Perkins List when he was Constable and Robin-

son having paid for his head at Lancaster y<sup>e</sup> same year

6 The Town Allowed to Ebenezer Nickols a former Con- stable Eight Shillings & four pence & being an abatement for

Archelus Townes head

7 The Town Allowed to the Trustees viz Elizer Lake To- bidan Perkins & Jacob Pasody Eighteen Shillings for their

trouble about the Loan Money this year

The freeholders and other inhabitants of The Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as the Law Directs for Vor-

ing are hereby Notified & warned to assemble and meet to- gether at the Meeting house in said Town on Tuesday the

Twenty Eighth Day of May Current at three of the Clock in the afternoon

1 To See if the Town will agree to Make any More Seats in the Meeting house and to Do any other thing or thing

about Said Meeting house that the Town shall think best

2 To See What the Town will Do Concerning a School Master

3 To See if the Town will Reckon with the Town Treas- urer

Dated Topsfield May the 21<sup>st</sup> 1734

Jonathan Perkins Constable of Topsfield

Joseph Gould

Ben<sup>n</sup> Towne

A True Copy Attest Jacob Pasody Town Clerk

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> 1734

John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting

voted



2 The Town agreed that there Should be a Seat Erected, before the womens Seats in y<sup>e</sup> Gallary and also that there be Seats built on y<sup>e</sup> East and South of the womens Seats below where there is Convenient Room in the meeting house in order to make more room for the women voted

3 Voted that the Selectmen Shall Reckon with the Town Treasurer

4 Voted that Mr Eliezer Lake Mr George Bixby & Mr John Wildes be a Committee to provide a School master for the Town for this year

The free holders and Other Inhabitatione of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting: are hereby Notified and Warned to Convene together att the Meeting house in Topsfield on Wednesday the Eighteenth Day of this instant September at two of the Clock after noon—To Choose two good & Lawfull Men to Serve on the Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Newbery within and for the County of Essex on the Last Tuseday of this Present September

Dated at Topsfield Sep<sup>r</sup> the fourteenth 1734

Joseph Perkins Constable of Topsfield

A True Copy Examined P Joseph Peabody Town Clerk

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield September the 18: 1734.

1 En<sup>s</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen Moderator for this: Meeting voted

2 Mr Dan Clark & Mr Isaac Peabody are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting, are hereby Warned and Notified; to Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting House in Said Town on Tuseday the Twelfth Day of November Currant At one of the Clock After noon

1 To See if the Town will Make an addition to the Reverend Mr Emersons Salary or Come to a New Agreement with him About his Salary, or Do any other thing or things about Said Salary that the Town Shall think best

2 The Town agreed that there should be a Seat Erected before the women's Seats in the Gallery and also that there be Seats built on the East and South of the women's Seats below where there is Convenient Room in the meeting house in order to make more room for the women.

3 Voted that the Selectmen shall Reckon with the Town Treasurer  
4 Voted that Mr. Elizer Lake Mr. George Bishop & Mr. John Willdes be a Committee to provide a School master for the Town for this year.

The free holders and Other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as the Law Directs for Voting; are hereby Notified and Warned to Convene together at the Meeting House in Topsfield on Wednesday the Eighteenth Day of this instant September at two of the Clock after noon—To Choose two good & Lawfull Men to Serve on the Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court of Common Pleas to be holden at Newbery within and for the County of Essex on the Last Tuesday of this instant September.

Dated at Topsfield Sep: the fourteenth 1734

Joseph Perkins Constable of Topsfield

A True Copy Examined by Joseph Perkins Town Clerk

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield September the 18:

1734

1 Ben: Ivory Hovey is Chosen Moderator for this: Meeting  
2 Mr. Dan Clark & Mr. Isaac Peabody are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Tryalls at the next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as the Law Directs for Voting; are hereby Warned and Notified; to Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting House in Said Town on Tuesday the Twelfth Day of November Current At one of the Clock After noon

1 To See if the Town will Make an addition to the Remuneration Mr. Emersons Salary or Come to a New Agreement with him About his Salary, or Do any other thing or things about Said Salary that the Town shall think best



2 To See how Much Money they will Raise to Defray Town Charges this year

3 To Impower the Trustees to Sue for the Loan Money

4 To accept of the Return of the Selectmens Reckoning with Said Town Treasurer

5 To Allow bills of Charge.

Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield November y<sup>e</sup> 6: 1734

Eliezer Lake

Jonathan Perkins Constable of Topsfield

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy of the Notification Attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield November y<sup>e</sup> 12:  
1734

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted

2 The Town Agreed to give to the Reverend Mr John Emerson the Sum of Twenty pounds; one half thereof to be paid in September following.  
voted

3 The Town Impowered the Trustees of the Towns Loan money viz Mr Eliezer Lake, Mr Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody to Sue any person or persons that have hired any of the Said Loan who are Defective in paying in the Same: and the Town will bear out the Said Trustees in all their Lawfull proceedings in that Affair  
voted

4 The Town Accepted of the Selectmens Return of their Reckoning with the Town Treasurer.  
voted

5 The Town Allowed thirteen pounds & Sixteen Shillings to the School Committee to pay the School Master for keeping School three Months And for his boarding that time  
voted 13:16:0

6 The Town Allowed one pound to Mr Joseph Herrick for two Tun of Timber to mend y<sup>e</sup> high ways this year  
voted 1-0-0

7 The Town Allowed to Matthew Peabody Six Shillings & Six pence for timber to mend the high ways this year  
voted 0-6-6

The free holders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified as the Law directs for Voting are hereby Notified and warned to assemble & meet together



- 5 To See how Much Money they will Raise in Delay Town Charges this year
- 6 To Impower the Trustees to Sue for the Loan Money
- 7 To accept of the Return of the Selectmen's Reckoning with Said Town Treasurer
- 8 To Allow bills of Charge

Jonathan Perkins Constable of Topsfield  
 Daniel Topfield November 7<sup>th</sup> 1734  
 Nathl. Porter  
 Ebenezer Lake  
 Henry Towne  
 Selectmen of Topsfield  
 A True Copy of the Notification Attest Jacob Pesbody  
 Town Clerk

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield November 7<sup>th</sup> 1734

- 1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting
- 2 The Town Agreed to give to the Reverend Mr John Emerson the Sum of Twenty pounds; one half thereof to be paid in September following
- 3 The Town Impowered the Trustees of the Towns Loan money viz Mr Ebenezer Lake, Mr Jonathan Perkins & Jacob Pesbody to Sue any person or persons that have hired any of the Said Loan who are defective in paying in the Same; and the Town will bear out the Said Trustees in all their Lawfull proceedings in that Affair
- 4 The Town Accepted of the Selectmens Return of their Reckoning with the Town Treasurer
- 5 The Town Allowed thirteen pounds & Sixteen Shillings to the School Committee to pay the School Master for keeping School three Months And for his boarding that time
- 6 The Town Allowed one pound to Mr Joseph Herrick for two Tun of Timber to mend 7<sup>th</sup> high ways this year
- 7 The Town Allowed to Matthew Pesbody Six Shillings & Six pence for timber to mend the high ways this year

The free holders and other Inhabitants of 7<sup>th</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified as the Free Electors for Voting are hereby Notified and warned to assemble & meet together

at the meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Topsfield on Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> fourth day of March next Ensuing the date hereof at Eight of the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning

1ly To Chuse A Town Clark Constables Select men & Other Town Officers as the Law directs to be chosen Annually

2ly To Chuse a commite to supply the Town with a School Master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing

3ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Reacon with the Town Treasurer

4ly To see what the Town will do with y<sup>e</sup> money in deacon Jacob Peabodys hands & to Allow Bills of Charge Dated Topsfield ffebruary y<sup>e</sup> 21 1734-5

Jonathan Perkins Constable  
of Topsfield

Nathaniel porter  
Joseph Gould

A True Coppie as atest John Hovey  
Town Clark

Eliazer Lake  
Benjamin Towne

At a Legal Town meeting in Topsfield March 4<sup>th</sup> 1734-5

1 M<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel porter is Chosen moderater for this meeting  
voated

2 John Hovey chosen Town Clark for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
voted & was immedatly sworn to y<sup>e</sup> faithfull discharge of s<sup>d</sup> office

3 M<sup>r</sup> Ephraim Wilds & Jacob Redington were chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing Ephrum wilds sworn Jacob redington sworn

4 Ivory Hovey was chosen Town Treasurer for the year Ensuing Sworn

5 deacon John Howlett deacon Jacob Peabody Richard Towne Benjamin Towne & Matthew Peabody are chosen select men for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing sworn asseors

6 Leiut Tobijah Pirkins m<sup>r</sup> Eliazer Lake & Luke Averill are Chosen Tithing men for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing sworn

7 John Hovey was Chosen sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing  
sworn

8 Ens Joseph Dorman philip Town & m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Herrick were chosen surveyers of highways sworn Daniel Redington Robert Perkins & George Bixby were chosen ffence view-ers for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing  
sworn

10 Aaron Esty & William perkins Junior are chosen Hogg Reives for y<sup>e</sup> yer Ensuing  
sworn





11 David Baltch was chosen surveyor of hemp & flax for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing

12 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould m<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel borman & m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Herrick was chosen a committe to supply the Town with a school master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

13 The Town agreed that the money in deacon Peabodys hand w<sup>ch</sup> is forty pound ten shillings should be paid into the Town Treasurers hand for the Towns use by s<sup>d</sup> peabody voted

14 it was voated y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> select men should Reacon with the Tow[n] Treasurer

15 m<sup>r</sup> Zacheus Gould was chosen to serve upon the gran jury

16 Ivory Hovey & Luke Averill to serve on the Jury of Trials at next Ipswich Court

17 The Town alowed to m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Peabody fifteen shillings & six pence for timber to mend the highways in y<sup>e</sup> year 1734 voted

18 The Town alowed y<sup>e</sup> school Committe thirteen pound sixteen shillings for providing the Town with a school for the three months last past voted

19 the Town alowed to m<sup>r</sup> Benjamin How one pound Eight shillings for sweeping the meeting house voted

20 the Town alowed to m<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Porter three shillings for warning parsons out of Town voted

21 The Town alowed to Ens Ivory Hovey Twenty shillings for his services as Town Treasurer for two years last past voted

The freeholders & Other inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as the Law directs for voting are hereby Notified & warned to assemble and meet together at the Meeting house in said Town on Wedensday the nineteenth Currant at three of the Clock in the after noon

1ly To see if the town will give Liberty for swine to go at Large as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs

2ly To Chuse a Commite to make up the Towns part of ffence between mr Clarks land & y<sup>e</sup> Parsonge

Dated Topsfield March ye 11<sup>th</sup> 1734 or 5 Matthew Peabody  
True Copy as atest John Hovey Town Cler Richard Towne  
Ephraim Wilds Constable of Topsfield Benjamin Towne  
Selectmen of Topsfield

- 11 David Hatch was chosen surveyor of hemp & flax for 7<sup>th</sup> year Ending
- 12 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould m<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel bottom & m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Henrich was chosen a committee to supply the Town with a school master for 7<sup>th</sup> year Ending
- 13 The Town agreed that the money in deacon Peabody's hand was to forty pound ten shillings should be paid into the Town Treasurer's hand for the Town's use by 2<sup>d</sup> Peabody voted
- 14 It was voted 7<sup>th</sup> select men should Reason with the Town [a] Treasurer
- 15 m<sup>r</sup> Zachary Gould was chosen to serve upon the grand jury
- 16 Ivory Hovey & Luke Averill to serve on the jury of Trials at next Ipswich Court
- 17 The Town allowed to m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Peabody fifteen shillings & six pence for timber to mend the highways in 7<sup>th</sup> year 1734
- 18 The Town allowed 7<sup>th</sup> school Committee thirteen pound sixteen shillings for providing the Town with a school for the three months last past
- 19 The Town allowed to m<sup>r</sup> Benjamin How one pound eight shillings for sweeping the meeting house
- 20 The Town allowed to m<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Porter three shillings for warning parsons out of Town
- 21 The Town allowed to Rev Ivory Hovey Twenty shillings for his services as Town Treasurer for two years last past voted
- The freeholders & Other inhabitants of 7<sup>th</sup> Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as the Law directs for voting are hereby Notified & warned to assemble and meet together at the Meeting house in said Town on Wednesday the nineteenth Current at three of the Clock in the after noon
- 17<sup>th</sup> To see if the town will give Liberty for swine to go at Large as 7<sup>th</sup> Law directs
- 22 To Chuse a Committee to make up the Towns part of hence between m<sup>r</sup> Clark land & 7<sup>th</sup> Parsons
- Dated Topsfield March ye 11<sup>th</sup> 1734 or 5 Matthew Peabody Town Clerk
- True Copy sent to John Hovey Town Clerk Richard Towne Ephraim Wilds Constable of Topsfield Benjamin Towne Selectmen of Topsfield



At a Lawfull Town meeting Topsfield March 19 1734 or 5  
 1ly Capt John Howlett is chosen Moderator for this meet-  
 ing voted

2ly the Town agreed y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>o</sup> swine should go at Larg as the  
 Law directs for y<sup>o</sup> yeare Ensuing voted

3ly Mr Matthew Peabody & M<sup>r</sup> Ephraim Wilds were  
 Chosen to make up the Towns part of ffence between M<sup>r</sup>  
 Daniel Clarks land & y<sup>o</sup> parsonage voted

March 19 1735 Then Received of Deacon Jacob Peabody  
 the sum of fforty Pounds Ten shillings which sum s<sup>d</sup> Peabody  
 was Ordered to pay in rent unto me at our last Annual Town  
 meeting

I say recived by me Ivory Hovey

Treasurer for s<sup>d</sup> Town

True Coppy as Attest John Hovey Town Clar.

The free holders and other inhabitants of the Town of  
 Topsfield such as are Qualified for voting as y<sup>o</sup> Law Directs  
 are hereby notified & warned to Conven together att the  
 meeting hous in topsfield on wednsday the 14<sup>th</sup> day of this  
 month Currant att Two of y<sup>o</sup> clo in y<sup>o</sup> after noon

1ly To Choose a man to serve as A Representitive at the  
 Great and General Court

2ly To see what the Town will do Concerning Gitting A  
 Bell for the meeting house

3ly to see what the Town will do about Repairing the ston  
 wall between m<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clarks land & y<sup>o</sup> Parsonage

4ly To see what y<sup>o</sup> Town will do with y<sup>o</sup> intrest of the  
 Lone money

5ly To aflow bills of charge

Dated Topsfield May y<sup>o</sup> 10<sup>th</sup>

1735

Benjamin Towne

Matthew Peabody

Richar<sup>d</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

Jacob Reddington Constable

Att A Legal Town meeting Topsfield May 14<sup>th</sup> 1735

1ly Deacon Jacob Peabody is chosen moderator for this  
 meeting

2ly Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen Representitive for y<sup>o</sup>  
 year Ensuing

3ly Israel Clark & Dan Clark are chosen a commitie to





repair the parsonag part of fence between m<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clarks land & it

4ly The Town agrees y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of the lone money shall have Eighteen shillings for their service y<sup>e</sup> yare past  
voted

5ly The Town agrees that Trustees shall pay in the second fifth part of the Lone money with the intrest belonging to it to the province treasurer  
voted

6ly The [Town] agreed that the Towns part of y<sup>e</sup> intrest of y<sup>e</sup> lone money shall be paid to the Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> Towns use  
voted

The pertickeler Concerning y<sup>e</sup> Bell passed in y<sup>e</sup> Negative  
Topsfield may 14 1735 Cap<sup>t</sup> John Howlett deacon Jacob Pebody Richard Town Benja Town & Matthew Peabody took the oath of assessors for y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield

May 14 1735 the select men approbated m<sup>r</sup> William howlett Schoolmaster for the year Ensuing according as he hath agreed with Capt Joseph Gould m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Herrick & Quar Borman a Committie chosen for y<sup>t</sup> End

Topsfield November 18 1731 Received of m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of Two pounds Ten shillings in full for my half years salary from march 2 1731 to septembar 2 1731  
by me John Emerson

Topsfield Septembar y<sup>e</sup> 13<sup>th</sup> 1734 M<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Treasurer of s<sup>d</sup> Town Sir you are hereby ordered to pay forthwith to y<sup>e</sup> Reverend m<sup>r</sup> John Emerson fifty pounds

Nathaniel porter  
Joseph Robinson  
Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

select men of Topsfield

Topsfield Novembar 19 1734 Recived of mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of four pounds the full of this order & in full for my half years Salary from march 2 1734 to September 2 1734

by me John Emarson

Topsfield March 20 1734-5 Recived of mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of forty seven pounds in part of my half years Salary from Sept 2 to march 2 1734-5

By me John Emarson





The freeholders & Other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs for voting are hereby warned and notified to Assemble and meet together at the meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town on Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> Second day of July next Ensuing the Date hereof at four of the Clock after noon

1ly to see whether the Tow[n] will alter or discontinue y<sup>e</sup> way y<sup>t</sup> is laid out from the Southerly End of Jacob Redingtons Land to nathaniel Porters land

2ly To allow Bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield Jun y<sup>e</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1735 John Howlett Mathew  
peabody Benjam Towne  
Ephraim Wilds Constable Select men of Topsfield

Att a Legal Town meeting July y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1735

1ly deacon John Howlett is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

2dly That pertickler to see whether the town would alter the highway as aboues<sup>d</sup> passed in the negative y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>dly</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Town Allowed Ephraim Wilds Two pounds Eleven shillings & six pence for making a ston wall between m<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clarks Land and the Parsonage Land voted

Topsfield Aprill 2 1735 Received of m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of Thirteen pounds in full for my half year Salary from September 2<sup>d</sup> 1734-5 by me John Emerson

The free holders and Other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs for voting are hereby warned & notified to assemble and meet together at y<sup>e</sup> meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town on Tusday the Twenty third daye of Septembar Currant at Two of y<sup>e</sup> Clock after noon

1ly To Chuse Jury men for Newbury Court

2ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will give or allow anything to y<sup>e</sup> Reverand Mr John Emerson for y<sup>e</sup> year Insuing more y<sup>n</sup> his Sallery

3ly To see how much money the Town will Raise to defray Town Charges

4ly to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will sell y<sup>e</sup> Watch House

5ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will accept of the select mens Return of y<sup>er</sup> Reaconing with the Town Treasurer





6ly to see if the Town will Order any other way of warning Town meetings

7ly To allow Bills of Charges

Dated Topsfield Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1735

Jacob Redington	Matthew Peabody	} Select men of Topsfield
Constable of Topsfield	Richard Towne	
	Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	

At A Legal Town meeting September 23 1735

firstly deacon Jacob Peabody is Chosen moderator for this meeting

2ly David Baultch & Zacheus Perkins are chosen to serve on the Jury of Trials at the next inferior Court at newbury

3dly ye Town agreed to giue to the Reverend m<sup>r</sup> John Emarson as a gift 20 pound 10 pound to be paid the second day of March next & Ten pound upon the second day of september next following

& upon y<sup>e</sup> fifth pertickeler the Town Accepted of y<sup>e</sup> select mens return of there Reaconing with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer

lastly The Town allowed five shillings to mr Joseph Herick for timber to mend y<sup>e</sup> highways

also y<sup>e</sup> Town allowed to m<sup>r</sup> Israel & Dan Clark three pound for repairing y<sup>e</sup> ston wall between y<sup>e</sup> Parsonage & m<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clarks land

& The town allowed the select men for their valuation of the Towns Estate in Order to assesment 3<sup>l</sup> 10<sup>s</sup> 00<sup>d</sup> and to Dan Clark for Timber to mend y<sup>e</sup> highway 00 or 06

Decembar 23 1735: recived of mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer the sum of seven pounds ten shillings in full for my half years sallary from march second 1734-5 To September 2<sup>d</sup> 1735 By me John Emarson

To m<sup>r</sup> John Hovey Town Clark these are to inform you That m<sup>r</sup> David Balch has taken the Oath of surveior of hemp & flax before us y<sup>e</sup> subscribers & we desire you to make a Record Thereof

	Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	} Selectmen of Topsfield
	Richard Towne	
Dated Topsfield Novem-	Matthew Peabody	
ber y <sup>e</sup> 6 <sup>th</sup> 1735	Jacob Peabody	

The ffree holders and other inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield Qualified as the Law directs for voting in Town



to see if the Town will Order any other way of warn-  
ing Town meetings  
To show Bills of Charges  
Dated Topsfield Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 1735

Jacob Redington  
Constable of Topsfield  
Matthew Peabody }  
Richard Towne }  
Benj<sup>r</sup> Towne }  
Select men  
of Topsfield

At A legal Town meeting September 23 1735  
firstly Deacon Jacob Peabody is Chosen moderator for this  
meeting

2<sup>ly</sup> David Bantick & Zacharias Perkins are chosen to serve  
on the Jury of Trials at the next inferior Court at newbury  
3<sup>dy</sup> ye Town agreed to give to the Reverend m<sup>r</sup> John  
Emerson as a gift 50 pound to be paid the second  
day of March next & Ten pound upon the second day of  
september next following

& upon ye 5<sup>th</sup> p<sup>ar</sup>celler the Town Accepted of ye select  
mens return of there Reasoning with ye Town Treasurer  
lastly The Town allowed five shillings to m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Her-  
rick for limber to mend ye highway

also ye Town allowed to m<sup>r</sup> Isaac & Dan Clark three pound  
for repairing ye ston wall between ye Parsonage & m<sup>r</sup> Daniel  
Clarks land

& The town allowed the select men for their valuation of  
the Towns Estate in Order to assessment 3<sup>ly</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 00<sup>th</sup> and to Dan  
Clark for limber to mend ye highway

December 23 1735 received of m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Town  
Treasurer the sum of seven pounds ten shillings in full for  
my half years salary from march second 1734-5 To Septem-  
ber 2<sup>d</sup> 1735

By me John Emerson  
To m<sup>r</sup> John Hovey Town Clerk there are to inform you  
That m<sup>r</sup> David Hatch has taken the Oath of suvivor of hemp  
& first before us ye subscribers & we desire you to make a  
Record thereof

Dated Topsfield Novem-  
ber 7<sup>th</sup> 00<sup>th</sup> 1735  
Jacob Peabody }  
Matthew Peabody }  
Richard Towne }  
Selectmen  
of Topsfield

The free holders and other inhabitants of ye Town of  
Topsfield Qualified as the Law directs for voting in Town

affairs are hereby notified to meet at the meeting house in Topsfield on Tuseday the second of March next at Eight of y<sup>e</sup> clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning

first To chuse a Town Clark Constables Select men & other Town officers as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs

2ly To see if the town will join with Beverly to Petition the General Court for a Township

3ly to see if the Town will hear & Consider y<sup>e</sup> Petition of m<sup>r</sup> Joseph Herrick & Others

4ly To see if the town will agree with W<sup>m</sup> Redington about the price of y<sup>e</sup> Bricks which he took from y<sup>e</sup> Watch house

5ly To see what advise the Town will give to the Town Treasurer refering to m<sup>r</sup> Samuel Smiths Rates

6ly To Reckon with the Town Treasurer

7ly To choose a Committie to supply y<sup>e</sup> Town with a school master

8ly To alow Bills of Charge: 9ly to see if the Town will make and maintain A Cart Gate on y<sup>e</sup> Road y<sup>t</sup> Leads Through John Andrews Lands

Dated Topsfield feeb y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1735

	Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Jacob Redington Constable	Matthew Peabody	
of Topsfield	Richard Towne	
	Jacob Peabody	

Att a Legal Town meeting in Topsfield March 2<sup>d</sup> 1735 or 6  
1ly Deacon Jacob Peabody is Chosen moderator for this meeting

2ly John Hovey is chosen Town Clark for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing

3ly Daniel Gould & phineas redington are chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing daniel gould sworn

4ly Deacon Ivory Hovey David Baultch Jacob Redington George Bixby & Luke Averel are chosen Select men for the year Ensuing

5ly John Hovey is chosen Sealer of Leather for the year Ensuing sworn

6ly Deacon Ivory Hovey is chosen Town Treasurer for the year Ensuing sworn

7ly Daniel Redington Jacob Averell Joseph Dorman are chosen Tithing men for year Ensuing Daniel redington & Jacob averell sworn





8ly William Rogers Eliazer Lake Israel Clark are chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing sworn

[No 9ly.]

10ly Daniel Clark & David Commins are chosen surveyors of high wayes for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing sworn

11ly Samuel Curtice and John Town Junior are Chosen hogg Reives for the year Ensuing sworn

12ly L<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould is chosen surveyor of hemp & flax for the year Ensuing sworn

13ly The Town agrees y<sup>t</sup> The Town Treasurer shall make dist[r]ess upon Samuel Smith a former Constable for the money which is behind of y<sup>e</sup> Town Rate Committed to him to Collect & gather in voted

14ly The Town Agrees y<sup>t</sup> William Redington shall give Twenty shillings for y<sup>e</sup> bricks he had from the watch house voted

15ly The Town agrees y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> present Select men Reacon with the Town Treasurer

16ly The Town agrees y<sup>t</sup> Nathaniel Capen shall have the watch house for forty shillings voted

17ly John Wilds Joshua Town y<sup>e</sup> Richard Town are chosen a committee to provide the Town with a school master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing

18ly The Town allows Nathaniel Capen ten shillings for Timbar to mend y<sup>e</sup> Bridg by the metting house

19ly The Town allows 23<sup>l</sup> 00<sup>s</sup> 00<sup>d</sup> to be paid for the last year schooling

20ly the Town allows Jacob Redington five shillings for Timbar to a small bridg

21ly y<sup>e</sup> Town allows Benjamin How Twenty Eight shillings for sweeping y<sup>e</sup> meeting house

22ly y<sup>e</sup> Town allows Luke Averell one shilling for timber to mend mile brook bridg

23ly The Town allows Isaac Peabody Eight Shillings for Timbar to mend y<sup>e</sup> ffals Bridg

24ly The Town allowed m<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Capen Three shillings for putting up a board to the window over the pulpit

also The Town accepts of John Wilds in y<sup>e</sup> room of Phineas Redington to be Constable for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing Wilds sworn





To m<sup>r</sup> John Wilds one of y<sup>e</sup> Constables of Topsfield in his majesties name you are Required forthwith to warn all the inhabitants of s<sup>d</sup> Town in your Ward Lawfully Qualified for voting viz all on the Estarly side of y<sup>e</sup> Contry Road from the Town bridg to the meeting house in Topsfield & all on the northerly side of y<sup>e</sup> Road y<sup>t</sup> Leads from s<sup>d</sup> meeting house to m<sup>r</sup> Emarsons To Convene together at the meeting house in Topsfield on Wedensday next it being the Twenty fourth of march instant at two of the clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon

1ly To Choos a Select man in y<sup>e</sup> room of deacon Ivory Hovey

2ly To chose Three good and Lawfull Jury men one to Serve on gran jury and two on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of trials at y<sup>e</sup> next inferior Court to be holden at Ipswich

3ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will choose a tything man in y<sup>e</sup> room of Ens Joseph Dorman

4ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will agree y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> swine shall go at Large this yeare

Hereof fail not & make return of this your warrant and your doings there in befor s<sup>d</sup> meeting to one or more of y<sup>e</sup> Select-men

David Baultch

Jacob redington

Dated Topsfield march 17 1735 or 6 Luke Averill

George Bixby

Select men of Topsfield

Essex ss Topsfield march y<sup>e</sup> 24 day 1736 By virtue of this warrant I have warned y<sup>e</sup> inhabitants within mentioned to appear att Time & place within mentioned

John Wilds Constable for Topsfield

There was another warrant to m<sup>r</sup> Daniel Gould one of y<sup>e</sup> Constables of Topsfield to warn the inhabitants in his ward at the same time as afors<sup>d</sup> y<sup>n</sup> Returned accordingly

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield March 24 1735 or 6

1ly M<sup>r</sup> John Wilds is chosen moderator for this meeting

2ly Matthew Peabody is chosen Select man for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing

3ly Michael Dwinel is chosen to serve upon y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury

4ly Joseph Herrick & W<sup>m</sup> Rogers are chosen to serve on the Jury of Trials





5ly the Town agrees y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> swine shall go at Large the year Ensuing as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs

We y<sup>e</sup> subscribers being appointed to Perambulate & renew the bounds Between Salem & Topsfield accordingly met on the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 1736 and Renewed the bounds begining att a whit Oak Tree marked S W T w<sup>t</sup> a heap of stones round it near Wenham Causey ffrom thenc to a black or red oak tree and stump with stones between s<sup>d</sup> tree y<sup>e</sup> stump standing in Bixbys orchard marked S T & from thence to a heap of stones near y<sup>e</sup> Corner of Thomas Dunels pasture & from thence to a heap of stones near nichols brook a little aboue the saw mill and so on y<sup>e</sup> same course to nichols Brook

Joseph Towne  
Matthew Peabody

Samuel Porter  
Nathaniel Putnam  
Israel Andrews

We y<sup>e</sup> Subscribers Being appointed by the select men of our several Town as Topsfield & Wenham to renew and perambulate the bounds between our Respective Towns as the Law directs have accordingly attended said service and have renewed y<sup>e</sup> Bounds according to the settlement of y<sup>e</sup> Bounds between our Towns which bounds we doe agree unto as witness our hands this 26 day of aprill 1736

Thos Tarbox                      Benj ffairfield  
Micheall Dwinell              John Towne

The ffreeholders and other inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield that have an Estate of free hold in Land within this province or territory of forty shillings Per annum at y<sup>e</sup> least or other Estate to the value of fifty pounds starling are hereby warned to assemble at the meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town on Wednesday the Twelveth day of May next at two a clock in the after noon

1ly To choose a Representative to serve at a Great and General Court or Assembly appointed to be Convened held & kept for his majesties service at the Court house in Boston upon Wednesday y<sup>e</sup> Twenty six day of may next

2ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will sett off a part of y<sup>e</sup> ffrunt galery for y<sup>e</sup> Women to sit in & 3<sup>dly</sup> to alow Bills of Charge





Dated Topsfield April 27 1736 David Balch Jacob redington  
 Luke Averill Matthew  
 John Wildes Constable peabody George Bixby  
 Selectmen of Topsfield

Topsfield May 12 1736 at a Lawfull Town meeting  
 1ly mr Thomas Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meeting

2ly Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative for y<sup>e</sup>  
 year Ensuing y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Pertickler Concerning a part of frunt  
 Galery passed in y<sup>e</sup> negative

4ly The Town alowed four pound 12 shillings for y<sup>e</sup> school  
 master

To m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield  
 sir you are hereby ordered to pay to the Reverend m<sup>r</sup> John  
 Emarson y<sup>e</sup> sum of sixty pound by y<sup>e</sup> second day of March  
 next Ensuing y<sup>e</sup> Date hereof

Dated Topsfield february 17  
 1735-6

Jacob Peabody Matthew  
 Peabody Richard Towne  
 Benj<sup>a</sup> Towe Select men  
 of Topsfield

Topsfield April 17 1736 Recived of m<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey Town  
 Treasurer Eight pounds y<sup>e</sup> full of this within written order  
 and in full for my Salery to march 2 1735-6

By me John Emarson

Topsfield April 17<sup>th</sup> 1736 This day recived of Mr Joseph  
 Herrick y<sup>e</sup> full and just sum of Twenty three pounds in Cash  
 and receipts to me paid and delivered it being the full Com-  
 plesion of my Salary for y<sup>e</sup> year past

P me William Howlett

Boston Jun 10<sup>th</sup> 1735 Rec<sup>d</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of Topsfield by  
 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould sixty one pounds five shillings fifty two  
 pounds sixteen shillings of which is y<sup>e</sup> second fifth of the  
 £60000 and Eight pounds nine shillings thereof is y<sup>e</sup> Inter  
 for the year 1735

P Jer Allen Trea<sup>s</sup>

Boston Janer<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> 1735 Rec<sup>d</sup> of mr Joseph Perkins Consta-  
 ble of Topsfield by Cap<sup>t</sup> Gould fifteen pound six shillings &  
 Eight pence in full

P Jer Allen Treas<sup>r</sup> £ 15 6 8

Dated Topsfield April 27 1735 David Batch Jacob Beding-  
ton Luke Averill Matthew  
John Wilder Constable  
Jacob Bedington George Hixby  
Selectmen of Topsfield

Topsfield May 12 1735 at a Lawdell Town meeting  
By Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen Moderator for this meet-

ing  
By Capt Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative for y<sup>e</sup>  
year Ending y<sup>e</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> Perlickes Concerning a part of trust  
Galerly passed in y<sup>e</sup> negative

By The Town shewed four pound 12 shillings for y<sup>e</sup> school  
master

To Mr Ivory Hovey Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield  
as you are hereby ordered to pay to the Receiver Mr John  
Emmison y<sup>e</sup> sum of sixty pound by y<sup>e</sup> second day of March  
next Ending y<sup>e</sup> Date heretofore

Dated Topsfield February 17  
1735-6  
Jacob Bedington Matthew  
Bedington Richard Towne  
Benj. Towne Select men  
of Topsfield

Topsfield April 17 1735 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town  
Treasurer eight pounds y<sup>e</sup> full of this within written order  
and in full for my Salary to march 2 1735-6

By me John Emmison  
Topsfield April 17<sup>th</sup> 1735 This day received of Mr Joseph  
Henrick y<sup>e</sup> full and just sum of Twenty three pounds in Cash  
and recits to me paid and delivered it being the full Com-  
pensation of my Salary for y<sup>e</sup> year past

By me William Howlett  
Boston Jun 10<sup>th</sup> 1735 Rec<sup>d</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Trustee of Topsfield by  
Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould sixty one pounds five shillings fifty two  
pounds sixteen shillings of which is y<sup>e</sup> second fifth of the  
£6000 and Eight pounds nine shillings the rest is y<sup>e</sup> later  
for the year 1735

By Mr Allen Treas<sup>r</sup>  
Boston Jan<sup>y</sup> 2<sup>o</sup> 1735 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Joseph Perkins Consta-  
ble of Topsfield by Cap<sup>t</sup> Gould fifteen pound six shillings &  
Eight pence in full

By Mr Allen Treas<sup>r</sup> £ 15 8 s



Topsfield March 3 1735-6 Received of m<sup>r</sup> Constable Joseph Perkins y<sup>e</sup> sum of six pounds five shillings in full by me  
Ivory Hovey Town Treas<sup>r</sup>

May y<sup>e</sup> 31 1736 we The subscribers being appointed a Committie to Perambulate the line between the Towns of Ipswich & Topsfield met on the day aboves<sup>d</sup> & Perambulated s<sup>d</sup> Line and in witness whereof we have set our hands and seals the year & daye above written John Choat Philemon Dane Daniel Heard Phillip fowler Committee for Ipswich. John Wilds Tobijah Perkins Luke Averill, Committee ffor Topsfield 1736

The ffreeholders and other inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield such as are Qualified for Voting as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs are hereby notified & warned to Convene and Assemble together at the meeting house in Topsfield on Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> of September Currant att one of the Clock on s<sup>d</sup> day

firstly To make Choice of two good and Lawfull men to serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Trials att the next inferior Court of Common pleas to be holden at Newbery

3ly To see what money the Town will raise to defray Town Charges for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensewing

3ly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will accept of the select mens return of y<sup>e</sup> Reaconing with the The Town Treasurer

4ly to see what the Town will doe Relating to the settling the line between us and Middleton and fiftly to alow bills of charg

Jacob Redington David Balch Luke Averill Matthew Peabody George Bixby Select men of Topsfield John Wilds Constable for Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield September y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1736 firstly m<sup>r</sup> Thomas Gould is chosen moderator for this meeting

2ly This meeting is adjourned from this 14<sup>th</sup> of September to Tuesday the 21 of september Currant at place & clock aboves<sup>d</sup>

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield September 21 1736 upon adjournment as abovesaid





Jacob Redington & George Bixby are chosen to serve on the Jury of tryals at y<sup>e</sup> next inferior Court of Common pleas to be holden at Newbery

2ly The Town agreed to Raise Thirty pounds beside m<sup>r</sup> Emersons Salary to defray Town charges this year

3ly The Town accepts of y<sup>e</sup> Select mens Return of their Reaconing with the Town Treasurer

y<sup>e</sup> select men have approbated m<sup>r</sup> William Howlett School master for the year ensuing

The freeholders & other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are qualified for voting are hereby required notified & warned to Conven together at the meeting house in Topsfield on fryday y<sup>e</sup> Twelue<sup>th</sup> of Novembar Currant at one of the clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon

firstly To see if the Town will give to y<sup>e</sup> reverend m<sup>r</sup> John Emarsen Twenty pound as thay did y<sup>e</sup> year past

2ly To see what y<sup>e</sup> will doe with the of y<sup>e</sup> Intrest Lone money now in the Trustees hands

3ly To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will order Consarning y<sup>e</sup> money which y<sup>e</sup> watch house and bricks belonging to it weare sould for

4ly To see if Town [will] Choose A Committe to treet with our neighbours in Ipswich ffarms in order to know their minds Consarning [being] set of to our Town

5ly To see if [the Town] will Choos a committee to set Bounds [between] Middleton and Topsfield

sixly to alow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield Novembar 1 1736      Jacob Redington  
Luke Averell George Bixby David Baultch Select men of  
Daniel Gould Constable for Topsfield      Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield Novembar 12 1736 firstly deacon Jacob Peabody is chosen moderator for this meeting

2ly the Town agrees to Give to the reverend m<sup>r</sup> John Emarsen Twenty pounds for this year as they did y<sup>e</sup> year past

3ly The [Town] agrees that the intrest of the lone money shall be paid into the Town Treasurer for the Towns use

4ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

The freeholders & other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield such as are qualified for voting are hereby requested notified & warned to Convene together at the meeting house in Topsfield on Friday y<sup>e</sup> Twelfth of November Current at one of the clock in y<sup>e</sup> afternoon

firstly To see if the Town will give to y<sup>e</sup> reverend m<sup>r</sup> John Emerson Twenty pound as they did y<sup>e</sup> year past

2ly To see what y<sup>e</sup> will doe with the ol<sup>d</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Interest Loan money now in the Trustees hands

3ly To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will order Concerning y<sup>e</sup> money which y<sup>e</sup> watch house and bidels belonging to it weare sold for

4ly To see if Town (will) Choose A Committee to meet with our neighbours in Ipswich Harms in order to know their minds Concerning [being] set of in our Town

5ly To see if [the Town] will Choose a committee to set bounds [between] Middleton and Topsfield

6ly To allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield November 1 1756

Jacob Redington  
Lake Averell George Bixby David Banach Select men of  
Daniel Gould Constable for Topsfield  
Topsfield

At a Lawfull Town meeting in Topsfield November 12 1756 firstly descon Jacob Peabody is chosen moderator for this meeting

2ly The Town agrees to Give to the reverend m<sup>r</sup> John Emerson Twenty pound for this year as they did y<sup>e</sup> year past

3ly The [Town] agrees that the interest of the loan money shall be paid into the Town Treasurer for the Town use

4ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

5ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

6ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

7ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

8ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

9ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

10ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

11ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant

12ly The Town agrees that select men shall settle & perambulate the bounds between Middleton and our Town according to Court Grant



5ly Capt Joseph Gould deacon Jacob Peabody & Jacob Redington are chose a committie to meet with our neighbours in Ipswich farms in order to know theire minds Concerning theire being set of to our Town

and for bills of change y<sup>e</sup> Town allowed to Matthew Peabody & Joseph Towne for perambulating with Salem six shillings

and to Ens Joseph Dorman and Thomas Gould for perambulating with boxford six shillings and to Tobijah Perkins John Wilds and Luke Averell for perambulating with Ipswich three shillings apeace & to Philip Towne for timber to mend the Town bridg five shillings to Joseph herrick for going to settle the line with middleton Three shillings & to the Trustees of the lone money for y<sup>e</sup> care and Trouble Eighteen shillings

and to George bixby for timbar to mend wheel brook bridg six shillings

Boston Janu<sup>ay</sup> 27 1736 Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of the Town of Topsfield by y<sup>e</sup> hand of Joseph Gould fifty two pounds sixteen shillings being y<sup>e</sup> third fifth of y<sup>e</sup> Sixty thousand pounds Loan & six pounds six shillings & eight pence Interest to y<sup>e</sup> first of June 1736

£       s       d

52 = 16 = 0 principal

Will<sup>m</sup> Frye Treas

6 = 06 = 8 Interest

March y<sup>e</sup> first 1736-7 then Rec<sup>vd</sup> of M<sup>r</sup> Eleazar Lake one of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Trustees y<sup>e</sup> sum of three pounds three shillings & two pence I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me

Ivory Hovey Town Treas<sup>r</sup>

To M<sup>r</sup> John Wilds one of y<sup>e</sup> Constables of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield In his Majesties Name you are required forthwith to warn all y<sup>e</sup> free holders & other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield in your Ward lawfully qualified for voting to convene together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting House in Topsfield afores<sup>d</sup> on Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> first Day of March next att Eight of the Clock in y<sup>e</sup> morning

Istly To Choose a Town Clerk, Constables, Selectmen & all other Town officers as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs





2ndly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will accept y<sup>e</sup> Return of y<sup>e</sup> Committee Chosen November 12, 1736 to treat with our Neighbours in Ipswich farms concerning there being sett off to our Town

Also to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will accept of our aboves<sup>d</sup> Neighbours of Ipswich farms upon y<sup>e</sup> terms which they have Subscribed to & Choose a Committee to joyn with a Committee that they shall Choose in order to see where a line may be properly stated or to agree & conclude upon some other method as the Town shall then think proper peaceably to promote y<sup>e</sup> aboves<sup>d</sup> affair

3dly To choose a Sutable person for a grave digger for the Town

4thly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will abate William Mackitreys Rate to Constable Jonathan Perkins

5thly To allow Bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield  
February 14 1736-7

Jacob Redington	} Selectmen of Topsfield
David Balch	
Luke Averill	
Mathew Peabody	
George Bixby	

Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> first 1736-7

B[y] virtue of this warrant I have warned the Inhabitants to appear at time & place within mentioned

John Wilds Constable

At a Lawful Town meeting in Topsfield March 1<sup>st</sup> 1736-7

1. Jacob Peabody is chosen Moderator for y<sup>e</sup> Meeting  
voted
2. Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing  
voted
3. Deacon Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing  
voted
4. M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> Israel Clark [are] Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing  
voted
5. M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Dorman, M<sup>r</sup> John Wilds, M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Towne, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould & M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Redington are Chosen Select men for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing  
voted
6. M<sup>r</sup> Israel Towne is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year



Andly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will accept y<sup>e</sup> Return of y<sup>e</sup> Committee Chosen November 17, 1736 to treat with our Neighbors in Ipswich towns concerning their being sett off to our Town.

Also to see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will accept of our neighbors Neighbors of Ipswich towns upon y<sup>e</sup> terms which they have subscribed to & Chosen a Committee to join with a Committee that they shall Chosen in order to see where a line may be properly stated or to agree & conclude upon some other method as the Town shall then think proper peaceably to promote y<sup>e</sup> above<sup>d</sup> affair.

3dly To choose a Constable person for a grave digger for the Town.

4thly To see if y<sup>e</sup> Town will abate William Maskinys Rate to Constable Jonathan Perkins.

5thly To allow Bills of Charge.

Selection of Topsfield	{	Jacob Redington	Dated Topsfield
		David Batch	February 14 1736-7
		Lake Averill	
		Matthew Peabody	
		George Bixby	

Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> first 1736-7  
By virtue of this warrant I have warned the Inhabitants to appear at time & place within mentioned  
John Willis Constable

At a Lawful Town meeting in Topsfield March 1<sup>st</sup> 1736-7  
1. Jacob Peabody is chosen Moderator for y<sup>e</sup> Meeting

2. Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

3. Deacon Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

4. M<sup>r</sup>. Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>r</sup>. Israel Clark [are] Chosen Constables for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

5. M<sup>r</sup>. Jacob Dorman, M<sup>r</sup>. John Willis, M<sup>r</sup>. Benjamin Towne, Lic<sup>t</sup>. Zachary Gould & M<sup>r</sup>. Daniel Redington are Chosen Select men for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

6. M<sup>r</sup>. Israel Towne is Chosen Sealer of Leather for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

7. M<sup>r</sup> Phinehas Redington, M<sup>r</sup> William Perkins & M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Redington are chosen tithing men for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

voted

8. M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Perkins, M<sup>r</sup> Jacob Robinson & M<sup>r</sup> David Commings are chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

voted

10. M<sup>r</sup> Benj<sup>m</sup> How & M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Perkins are choosen Hogreeves for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

voted

9. M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Dorman, M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Towne & Lieu<sup>tn</sup> Tobiah Perkins are Choosen Surveyors of highways for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing

voted

11. Upon hearing y<sup>e</sup> report of y<sup>e</sup> Committee y<sup>t</sup> went to treat with our Neighbours in Ipswich Farms & then answer to y<sup>e</sup> Committee voted y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Town are willing to have our Neighbours in Ipswich Farms laid to us & to joyn with us to be one Town & y<sup>e</sup> Town to be at one half of y<sup>e</sup> whole Charge of their being laid to y<sup>e</sup> Town, provided y<sup>t</sup> our s<sup>d</sup> Neighbours which live on y<sup>e</sup> South Side of the River Shall & do sufficiently oblige themselves & their Heirs to find themselves a way over y<sup>e</sup> River, so y<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield as a Town shall not be at y<sup>e</sup> charge of making or maintaining a Bridge over y<sup>e</sup> River for them

12. M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Herrick, Dea<sup>cn</sup> Ivory Hovey & M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill are Chosen a committee to see if our Neighbours in Ipswich farms will agree to y<sup>e</sup> vote of y<sup>e</sup> Town respecting their being laid to us: if they consent thereto then s<sup>d</sup> Committee are to take Security of those g<sup>tn</sup> y<sup>e</sup> South Side of y<sup>e</sup> River agreeable to y<sup>e</sup> vote of y<sup>e</sup> Town; and also to joyn with Such as our s<sup>d</sup> Neighbours shall choose to agree where & how to state a Line & s<sup>d</sup> Committee to make return of their proceeding in s<sup>d</sup> affair to y<sup>e</sup> Town as soon as may be convenient

13. Benjamin How is Chosen to digg y<sup>e</sup> graves

voted

14. The Town allowed to Mr. Jonathan Perkins so much as Will Mackitry was rated on y<sup>e</sup> Lists when He was Constable

voted

15. The Town allowed to M<sup>r</sup> Michael Dwinill Jun<sup>r</sup> & M<sup>r</sup> John Town Jun<sup>r</sup> four shillings for perambulating with Wenham men on the line between y<sup>e</sup> Towns in y<sup>e</sup> year 1736

voted 00-4-00





16. The Town allowed to y<sup>e</sup> School Committee viz to M<sup>r</sup> Joshua Towne, M<sup>r</sup> John Wilds & M<sup>r</sup> Richard Towne eighteen pounds seventeen shillings & nine pence for defraying y<sup>e</sup> Charges of y<sup>e</sup> School for four months & three Days y<sup>e</sup> year past voted 18-17-9

17. The Town allowed to M<sup>r</sup> Samuel Towne five shillings for Timber to mend y<sup>e</sup> highway in y<sup>e</sup> year 1734 voted 00-5-00

The Several Officers Chosen at the above s<sup>d</sup> Town meeting of whom an oath is by the Laws Required all tooke the proper oath [of their] Respective offices on the Same Day of sd meeting. Except Jacob [ ] Thomas Dorman being Chosen a Haward or field Driver of [ ] Meadow Common fields: he was Sworn to y<sup>e</sup> faithfull discharge of his office: before the Selectmen on y<sup>e</sup> 1 of march 1736-7, Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> being Chosen Constable on y<sup>e</sup> 1 of March 1736 was Sworn on the 14 Day of the same month

Entered by order of the Selectmen Jacob Peabody

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for voting; are hereby Notified & warned to assemble and meet together, at the Meeting house in Said Town on Wednesday the Twenty third Currant, at two of the Clock afternoon

1 To Chuse Jurymen for Ipswich Court

2 To Chuse a Committe to Supply the Town with a School for the year Ensuing

3 To Chuse a Surveyer of hemp & flax

4ly To Chuse overseers of the poor

5 To See if the Town will Give Liberty for Swine to go at Large as the Law Directs and to see if the Town will Do anything about a fish Course up Ipswich River

6 To hear and act upon Ipswich farmers answer to Topsfield Committe

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1736-7 Zacheus Gould

Israel Clark Constable of Topsfield Daniel Redington

Jacob Dorman

John Wildes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

Selectmen of Topsfield

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification Attest Jacob Peabody  
Town Clerk





At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1736-7

1 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen Grand Juryman for the year Ensuing voted

3 En<sup>s</sup> Joseph Dorman & Mr Matthew Peabody are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Tryals at the next Inferior Court to be holden at Ipswich voted

4 Mr Jesse Dorman, mr Joseph Andrew & mr David Comings are Chosen a Committe to Supply the Town with a School-master for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould is Chosen Surveyer of hemp & flax for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

6 The Town Gives Liberty for Swine to go at Large as y<sup>e</sup> Law Gives Liberty voted

7 Mr Joseph Towne, Mr Joseph Herrick, & Mr Benjamin Towne are Chosen a Committe to go to the Neighbouring Towns to See if they will Joyn with us in Trying to Gitt a fish Course Cleard up Ipswich River and if the Neighbouring Towns or the Major part of them which the Said Committe Shall Treat with about s<sup>d</sup> affair Shall See Cause to Joyn with us as afore s<sup>d</sup> then Said Committe are hereby fully Impow-ered to use all Proper means as the Law Directs to Git the Same Effectd voted

8 Inasmuch as this Town is very small and there being a Number of our Neighbours in Ipswich farms which are willing to be Laid or set off to this Town Therefore the Town Doe hereby Declare that they are willing to Receive our Said Neighbours into one Township with us and to have them with us in all Civill, and Ecclesiastical Priviledges they paying one half of the Charge of being set off as they agreed to doe: by their Committies Answer to our Towns Committe March 14 1736-7 voted

Mr Joseph Herrick Enters his Dissent from the Last vote because he would not be at any Cost about a Bridge for our said Neighbours on y<sup>e</sup> South Side of the river

Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Mr George Bixbe & Mr Nathaniel [ ] Are Chosen a Committe to Joyn with Such Gentlemen as our sd [ ] have already Chosen to go and agree upon a Line



At A Lawful Town Meeting in Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1736-7  
 1. John Nathan Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
 2. Mr Thomas Gould is Chosen Grand Jurymen for the year ensuing  
 3. Mr Joseph Dorman & Mr Matthew Pasbody are Chosen to serve on the Jury of Tpsals at the next Interior Court to be holden at Ipswich  
 4. Mr Jesse Dorman, Mr Joseph Andrew & Mr David Comings are Chosen a Committee to Supply the Town with a School-master for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 5. John Nathan Gould is Chosen Surveyor of hemp & flax for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 6. The Town Gives Liberty for Swine to go at Large as y<sup>e</sup> Law Gives Liberty  
 7. Mr Joseph Towne, Mr Joseph Herrick & Mr Benjamin Towne are Chosen a Committee to go to the Neighbouring Towns to see if they will join with us in trying to Get a New Course Cleared up Ipswich River and if the Neighbouring Towns or the Major part of them which the Said Committee Shall Treat with about a<sup>n</sup> other Shall See Cause to join with us as above a<sup>n</sup> then Said Committee are hereby fully Impow-ered to use all proper means as the Law Directs to Get the Same Effectd  
 8. Inasmuch as this Town is very small and there being a Number of our Neighbors in Ipswich towns which are will- ing to be Laid or set off to this Town Therefore the Town Doe hereby Declare that they are willing to Receive our Said Neighbors into one Township with us and to have them with us in all Civil, and Ecclesiastical Priviledges they pay- ing one half of the Charge of being set off as they agreed to do: by their Committee Answer to our Towns Committee March 14 1736-7  
 Mr Joseph Herrick Refers his Dissent from the Last vote because he would not be at any Cost about a Bridge for our said Neighbors on y<sup>e</sup> South Side of the river  
 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Mr George Biscoe & Mr Nathaniel [ ] are Chosen a Committee to join with such Gentlemen as our sd [ ] have already Chosen to go and agree upon a Line

which they [ ] Most Convenient for our sd Neighbours to be Sett off by to this [ ]

The fireholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting, are hereby Warned to Assemble and Meet at the Meeting house in Said Topsfield, on Tuseday the Tenth Currant at three of the Clock After Noon. first to Chuse a Representative to Serve for and Represent them at A Great and General Court to be holden at Boston for his Majesties Service

2 To See if the Town will Give Liberty for the Selectmen to Draw five pounds, Seven Shillings and Ten pence out of our Treasury to Pay a County Rate. And to See if the Town will Reckon with the Town Treasurer And to See how the Town will Dispose of the intrest of the Loan money

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May the 5<sup>th</sup> 1737

Jacob Perkins Constable	Zacheus Gould	} Selectmen of Topsfield
	Daniel Redington	
	Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	
	John Wildes	

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 1737

1 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Zacheus Gould is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Mr Nathaniel Bordman is Chosen Representative for y<sup>e</sup> Town voted

3 The Town Gave Liberty for y<sup>e</sup> Selectmen to Draw five pound Seven Shillings & Ten pence out of the Town Tréas- ury to Pay the County Rate which is now Sent for voted

4 Voted that the Select [men] Shall Reckon with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer voted

5 Voted that the Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> Towns Loan Money shall pay in y<sup>e</sup> Towns part of s<sup>d</sup> Loan to the Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> Towns use

Topsfield June y<sup>e</sup> 27<sup>th</sup> 1737 There is taken up Dam[ ] by Joseph Neeland of Topsfield a Small horse about three or four year old: of a black or Dark brown Colour having a Short Dock but Neither brand nor Ear Mark the sd horse was apprized at Six pound by Daniel Dresser of Boxford and Joseph Commings of Topsfield they were sworn before David Wood Esqr





The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are Warned and Notified to Assemble and Meet at the Meeting house in Said Town on fryday the Twenty third Current, at two of the Clock afternoon

1 To See how much money they will raise to Defray Town Charges for the year Ensuing

2ly To See how much money they will Allow to Mr Emerson more than his Sallary for the year Ensuing

3 To Choose Jury men for Newbery Court

4 To See if they will abate Josiah Kenney Deceased his Rates for his head for the year 1736

5 To Receive the Answer of our Neighbours in Ipswich farms and to Do and act on or about that affair as they Shall See Cause

6 To Allow bills of Charge. Dated in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1737

Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> Constable

Daniel Redington	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Jacob Dorman	
John Willds	
Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1737

1 Mr Joseph Herrick is Chosen Moderator for this meeting voted

2 The Town Agreed that fourty pounds Shall be raised to Defray the Arising Charges of the Town for the year Ensuing voted

3 Mr Joseph Herrick & Mr Benjamin Towne are Chosen to Serve on the Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery

4 The Town Allowed Sixteen Shillings & Six pence to Mary Kenny widow And Relick of Josiah Kenney Late of Topsfield Deceased it being an abatement of sd Josiahs Rates for the year 1736

5 The Town agreed to Joyn with our Neighbours in Ipswich farms in Petitioning to the General Court that they and their Estates May be Laid to y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield as Town voted

The freeholders and other inhabitants of the Town at Town-  
held such as are qualified as the Law Directs for Voting  
are Warned and Notified to Assemble and Meet at the Meet-  
ing house in Said Town on Friday the Twenty third Cas-  
cal at two of the Clock afternoon

1 To See how much money they will raise to Defray Town  
Charges for the year Ending

2 To See how much money they will Allow to Mr. En-  
croon more than his Salary for the year Ending

3 To Choose Jury men for Newbery Court  
4 To See if they will spare Josiah Kennedy Deceased his

Rates for his head for the year 1736  
5 To Receive the Answer of our Neighbours in Ipswich

6 To Receive the Answer of our Neighbours in Ipswich  
laims and to Do and act on or about that affair as they shall  
See Cause

7 To Allow bills of Charge. Dated in Topsfield Sep<sup>r</sup> 17<sup>th</sup>  
1737

Jacob Perkins Jun<sup>r</sup> Constable

Selection  
of Topsfield

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>r</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> 1737

1 Mr Joseph Herrick is Chosen Moderator for this meet-  
ing

2 The Town Agreed that forty pounds shall be raised to  
voted

3 Mr Joseph Herrick & Mr Benjamin Towne are Chosen  
to Serve on the Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court  
to be holden at Newbery

4 The Town Allowed Sixteen Shillings & Six pence to  
Mary Kenny widow And Relief of Josiah Kennedy late of  
Topsfield Deceased it being an acknowledgment of an Josiah  
Rates for the year 1736

5 The Town agreed to Joy'n with our Neighbours in Ips-  
wich lains in Petitioning to the General Court that they and  
their Estates May be Laid to the Town of Topsfield as Town  
voted

6 Voted that Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould & Mr George Byxbe be a Committe to Joyn with our s<sup>d</sup> Neighbours or with Such as they Shall Appoint to petition as Afore Said

Topsfield January 10<sup>th</sup> 1737-8 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> Sum of Sixty pounds in full and y<sup>e</sup> full of my Last years Salary from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1736 to March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1736-7

by me John Emerson

Topsfield March 18<sup>th</sup> 1736-7 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer y<sup>e</sup> sum of Sixty pounds in full and y<sup>e</sup> full of my Last years Salary from September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1736 to March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1736-7

by me John Emerson

Topsfield february 3<sup>rd</sup> 1737-8 Received Eleven pound in full of this order & in full for my Salary to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1737

by me John Emerson

The three Receipts Last Entred are True Copies

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Topsfield Such as are Lawfully Quallified for Voting are hereby Notified & warned to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield Tuseday y<sup>e</sup> Seventh Day of March Next at Nine of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> fore noon

1 To Choose a Town Clerk, Constables, Selectmen and other Town Officers as the Law Directs Annually to be Chosen

2 To see what the Town will Do as to the Reverend Mr John Emersons Salary, as to y<sup>e</sup> fall of y<sup>e</sup> bills of Credit Since he Settled with us in y<sup>e</sup> work of the Ministry

3 To See what the Town will Do as to the Repairing y<sup>e</sup> parsonage fence

4 To Approbate Juriours as the Law Directs

5 To hear and act upon a Petition of Mr James Curtis and others of Boxford

6 To hear and Act on a Petition of Mr George Bixby & others Refering to Rams

7 To Allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield February y<sup>e</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> A: D: 1737-8



At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield March 7<sup>th</sup> 1737-8

1 Mr Joseph Henrick is Chosen Moderator for this meeting  
 2 Jacob Leachody is Chosen Town Clerk for the year ensuing  
 3 William Perkins & Thomas Perkins are Chosen Constables for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 4 Dea<sup>r</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen Town Treasurer for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 5 Joseph Henrick, Daniel Redington, David Cummings, Benjamin Towne and Joseph Perkins are Chosen Selectmen for the year ensuing  
 6 Israel Towne is Chosen Sealer of Leather for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 7 George Bixby, Solomon Gould & Samuel Towne are Chosen Tything Men for the year ensuing  
 8 Ephraim Wildes, Samuel Curtis & Nathan Hood are Chosen Surveyors of highways for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 9 Israel Clark, John Towne Jun<sup>r</sup> & Thomas Howlet are Chosen fence viewers for the year ensuing  
 10 Robert Perkins & John Clark are Chosen Hogstovers for 7<sup>th</sup> year ensuing  
 11 Whereas William Perkins hath agreed with Dan Clark to serve for him as Constable the Town Doth Accept of s<sup>d</sup> Clark in 7<sup>th</sup> room of s<sup>d</sup> Perkins  
 12 The Town agreed to Give Thirty pounds to the Reverend Mr John Emerson for the present year  
 13 The Town Agreed to Make Twenty Rods of good Sub-  
 stant Stone wall about 7<sup>th</sup> Parsonage this year  
 14 Cor<sup>r</sup> John Wildes & Phillip Towne are Chosen to make up s<sup>d</sup> Stone wall about the Parsonage and also to repair the rest of 7<sup>th</sup> fence about the parsonage (which belongs to the Town) with the old fence which they shall take up; where they Make the wall

Selections  
 of Topsfield  
 Jacob Perkins Constable  
 Daniel Redington  
 John Wildes  
 Henry Towne  
 Zachary Gould

15 The Town having heard the Petition of Mr James Curtis And others of Boxford Concerning their being Set off to the Town of Topsfield. The Town Voted that they were willing to Receive them in Township with us voted

16 The Town Allowed one pound to Dea<sup>n</sup> Ivory Hovey for Serving the two Last years as Town Treasurer

voted 1-0-0

17 The Town Allowed to Mr Daniel Clark Nine Shillings for Timber to mend the high ways in y<sup>e</sup> year 1736 voted

18 The Town Allowed to Samuel Towne one pound one Shilling 1-1-0 for Timber to mend the high ways in the year 1737 voted

19 The Town Allowed to Benjamin How one pound Eight Shillings 1-8-0 for Sweeping the Meeting house y<sup>e</sup> year past voted

The officers Chosen at the above s<sup>d</sup> meeting were all Sworn as the Law Directs

Boston 25 octo 1737 Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Daniel Gould Constable of Topsfield Sixty Six pound thirteen Shillings & Ten pence in full W<sup>m</sup> ffrye Treas<sup>r</sup>

This is a True Copy attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

Topsfield March 21<sup>st</sup> 1738 Then Rec<sup>d</sup> of Mr Daniel Gould one of the former Constables: the Sum of four pounds and Eleven Shillings & Six pence in full of his Rates Committed to me to Receive of him

I say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me Ivory Hovey Treasurer  
for s<sup>d</sup> Town

This Last Receipt is a True Copy Attest Jacob Peabody Town Clerk

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsf<sup>d</sup> Such as are Lawfully Quallified for Voting are notified and warned to Assemble and Meet at the Meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Town on Tuseday the Twenty first Day of March Instant at Two of the Clock after noon

1 To Choose Jury men according to Warrant for Ipswich Court

2 To Choose a Committe to Supply the Town with a School master for the year Ensuing

3 To See if the Town will Repair or amend the Glass of the Meeting house





4 To See if the Town will Give Liberty for Swine to go at Large as the Law Directs

5 To allow bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield March the 17: A: D 1737-8

Thomas Perkins Constable	Joseph Herrick	} Selectmen of Topsfield
	Daniel Redington	
	David Commings	
	Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	

At a Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> 1737-8

1 Mr Joseph Herrick is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

2 Dea<sup>n</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand Jury for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

3 Mr Daniel Clark & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Capen are Drawn out of the Box to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryals at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Ipswich

4 Phineas Redington, mr Thomas Dwinel & Doc<sup>t</sup> Richard Dexter are Chosen a Committe to provide a School master for the Town for y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted

5 The Town agreed that the present Selectmen Shall take Care to Git the Meeting house Glass windows repaired voted

6 The Town agreed that Swine May go at Large this year according as the Law gives Liberty voted

7 The Town Allowed fifteen Shillings to Thomas Dorman for Timber to mend the Bridge between Topsfield & Middleton 0-15-0

8 The Town Allowed fifteen pound to the School Committe viz Mr Jesse Dorman, Mr Joseph Andrew & David Commings for Defraying the Charges of the School fo[r] three months in y<sup>e</sup> years 1737 & 1737-8 voted

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield Such as are Lawfully Quallified for Voting are hereby Notified and warned; to Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting house in s<sup>d</sup> Topsfield on Tuseday the Sixteenth Day of May Currant, at Two of the Clock After noon

1 To Choose a Representative to Serve in y<sup>e</sup> Great and General Court to be holden at Boston, upon Wednesday the Thirty first Day of May Currant





- 2 To See if the Town will Reckon with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer
  - 3 To See if the Town will Give order to the Treasurer to Sue for y<sup>e</sup> Money Due for the Watch house
  - 4 To See if the Town will agree to build a School house or houses
  - 5 To Allow bills of Charge
- Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 8 A: D: 1738

Thomas Perkins Constable of Topsfield	Joseph Herrick David Commings Daniel Redington Benj <sup>n</sup> Towne	} Selectmen of Topsfield
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At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield May: 16: 1738

1 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen Representative to Serve at the General Court voted

2 Dea<sup>n</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting voted

3 Voted that the Selectmen Shall Reckon with Town Treasurer

4 Voted that y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer Shall Receive the Money which is Due to the Town for the Watch house, and for the brick which Did belong to y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> watch house

5 The Town Allowed to Lieu<sup>t</sup> Tobijah Perkins Eighteen Shillings for Timber he had of Joseph Peabody & Jacob Averill to mend the high ways in the year 1737 voted

6 The Town Allowed Seven Shillings to Benjamin How 0-7-0 for Sweeping the Meeting house the Months from y<sup>e</sup> first of March Last voted

7 The Town Allowed Thirty Six Shillings To the Trustees for the £60000 Loan for their trouble About the Towns part of sd Loan from May first 1736 till they had Sent in the fourth fift part of Said Loan voted 1-16-0

Topsfield March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1737-8 Received of Mr Ivory Hovey Town Treasurer fifty pound y<sup>e</sup> full of this within written order and y<sup>e</sup> full of My Sallary to y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1737-8  
by me John Emerson

The freeholders and other Inhabitants of Topsfield that are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting are hereby notified and warned to Assemble and Meet together at the Meeting house in Said Town on Thirsdlay the fourteenth Currant at Two of the Clock afternoon





- 1 To Chuse Jury men for Newbery Court
- 2 To See what the Town will Do Concerning the Clay Ground reserved for the Towns use
- 3 To See how much Money the Town will raise to Defray Charges for the year Ensuing
- 4 to accept of the Selectmens reckoning with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer

5 to allow bills of Charge

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Anno: Domini 1738

Thomas Perkins	Joseph Herrick	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Constable of Topsfield	David Commings	
	Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	

At A Lawfull Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1738

1 Dea<sup>n</sup> Ivory Hovey is Chosen Moderater for this Meeting voted

2 Mr Thomas Baker & Mr Nath<sup>l</sup> Porter Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen by the Direction of Law to Serve on the Jury of Tryals at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbery

3 Doc<sup>t</sup> Michael Dwinel & Edmun Towne are Chosen to take the Enspection of the Clay Ground which belongs to the Town to See that No out Towns man or men Shall Dig or Carry away any Clay or brick from Said Clay Ground voted

4 The Town agreed to raise Eighty pound (besides Mr Emersons Salary to Defray the charges of the Town the Ensuing year voted

5 The Town accepted of the Selectmen Reckoning with y<sup>e</sup> Town Treasurer

6 the Town Allowed Twenty pound to the School Committe viz To Phineas Redington & Thomas Dwinel: To pay M<sup>r</sup> Hovey for keeping School two Months; And to pay M<sup>r</sup> Howlet for keeping School two Months in the Spring and Summer past voted 20-0-0

Topsfield May the 26<sup>th</sup> 1738 then Rec<sup>d</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> Trustees of y<sup>e</sup> £60000 Loan viz Eliezer Lake Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody the Sum of Two pounds two Shillings and three pence in full for the Towns part of the interest of s<sup>d</sup> Loan from May y<sup>e</sup> 1: 1736 till May 1<sup>st</sup> 1737

I Say Rec<sup>d</sup> by me Ivory Hovey Treasurer for sd Town





Boston 2 June, 1738 Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of the Town of Toppfield P hand Mr Joseph Gould fifty two pound Sixteen shillings being the 4<sup>th</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> of the 60000<sup>£</sup> Loan & four pound four Shillings Six pence Int<sup>r</sup> to June 1737

£ 52-16-0

W. Frye Treasurer

4- 4-6

£ 57- 0-6

The Freeholders & other Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Town of Toppfield, such as are qualified, as y<sup>e</sup> Law directs, for voting, are hereby notified & warned to assemble & meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting House in s<sup>d</sup> Toppfield, on Tuesday y<sup>e</sup> sixth Day of March next ensuing the Date hereof at eight of y<sup>e</sup> Clock in y<sup>e</sup> fore noon

1. To choose a Town Clerk, Constables, Selectmen & other Town officers annually to be chosen

2. To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will do about M<sup>r</sup> Emerson's Salary, or how much more they will allow him for y<sup>e</sup> ensuing year

3. To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will do about y<sup>e</sup> Clay Ground reserved for the Towns use

4. To allow Bills of Charge

5. To see what y<sup>e</sup> Town will do relating to our neighbours in Ipswich farms coming into Township with us. And to Approve Juries

6. To see what the Town will do about fencing the Parsonage

Dated Toppfield February y<sup>e</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> Anno Dom<sup>on</sup> 1738-9

Thomas Perkins

Dan Clarke

Constables of  
Toppfield

Joseph Hirrick

Daniel Redington

David Cummings

Benja Towne

Selectmen  
of  
Toppfield

At a legal Town Meeting in Toppfield March 6 1738-9

1. M<sup>r</sup> John Wildes is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted

2. Jacob Peabody is Chosen Town Clerk for y<sup>e</sup> year en-  
suing voted

3. M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Baker & M<sup>r</sup> Dan Clarke are Chosen Con-  
stables for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing voted

4. M<sup>r</sup> Benjamin Towne Lieu<sup>t</sup> Tobijah Perkins M<sup>r</sup> Daniel





Gould M<sup>r</sup> John Wildes & M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Redington are Chosen Selectmen for the year ensuing voted

5. M<sup>r</sup> David Balch is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing voted

6. M<sup>r</sup> Israel Towne is Chosen sealer of leather for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing voted

7. M<sup>r</sup> Luke Averill, M<sup>r</sup> Nathan Peabody & M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Perkins are Chosen Tythingmen for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing voted

8. M<sup>r</sup> Amos Dorman M<sup>r</sup> John Davis & M<sup>r</sup> Solomon Gould are Chosen Surveyers of highways for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing voted

9. Lieu<sup>t</sup> Joseph Dorman Joseph Hovey & M<sup>r</sup> Nathaniel Capen are Chosen fence viewers for y<sup>e</sup> year ensuing voted

10. M<sup>r</sup> Jeremiah Towne, M<sup>r</sup> Isaac Estey & M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Hirrick Jun<sup>r</sup> are Chosen hogreeves for the year ensuing voted

11. M<sup>r</sup> Nath<sup>l</sup> Averill Jun<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Eliezer Lake & Jacob Peabody are Chosen a committee to settle bounds with y<sup>e</sup> Proprietors of the land that joyns upon y<sup>e</sup> Clay Ground reserved for the Towns use voted

12. The Town manifested by a vote that they were willing to recieve our Neighbours in Ipswich farms into Township with us: and M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Hirrick M<sup>r</sup> George Bixby & M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Towne are chosen a committee to treat with our s<sup>d</sup> neighbours in Ipswich farms, to see upon what Terms they will joyn with us as [a] Township, and make return of their proceedings in s<sup>d</sup> affair, to y<sup>e</sup> Town at their next meeting

voted

13. The Town allowed one pound nine shillings & six pence to M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Clark for boarding y<sup>e</sup> Glazers & keeping their horses while they mended the meeting House Glass the last winter

voted 1-9-6

14. The Town allowed sixteen shillings & 6 pence to M<sup>r</sup> Daniel Gould for John Spauldings rates

voted 0-16-6

15. The Town allowed twenty one pounds sixteen shillings & eight pence to the School Comm<sup>tee</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Dwinell M<sup>r</sup> Phinhas Redington & M<sup>r</sup> Richard Dexter for defraying the Charges of the school for four months & eleven days the year past

voted 21 16 8

16. The Town allowed to M<sup>r</sup> Joseph Hirrick one pound fifteen shillings

1 15 0

and to M<sup>r</sup> David Cummings three pounds five shillings

3 05 0





and to Mr Benja<sup>n</sup> Towne one pound twelve shillings 1 12 0  
they having paid the afores<sup>d</sup> Sums to the Glazers that  
mended the Meeting House Glass y<sup>e</sup> last winter voted

17. The Town allowed to Mr Epraim Wildes ten Shillings  
and Six pence for Timber to Mend y<sup>e</sup> highways y<sup>e</sup> year past  
voted 0-10-6

18. The Town allowed five shillings to Mr Sam<sup>l</sup> Curtis for  
timber to mend the highways the year past voted 0 5 0

19. The Town agreed to give to y<sup>e</sup> Reven<sup>d</sup> Mr John Em-  
erson thirty pounds more than his Salary for this year voted

The Several Town officers Chosen at the Last Town Meet-  
ing Which y<sup>e</sup> Law requires to be Sworn All took the oath  
belonging to their Respective Offices on the Sixth, and on  
the Sixteenth Days of March 1738-9 (Except Mr David Balch  
who was Chosen Town Treasurer And refused to Serve)

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of  
Topsfield Such as are Lawfully Quallified for Voting in Town  
Meeting are hereby Notified and Warned to Assemble and  
Meet together at the Meeting house in Said Topsfield on  
Tuseday the Twentieth Day of March Currant at two of the  
Clock afternoon

1 To Chuse Jury men for Ipswich Court According to  
Warrant

2 To Choose a Town Treasurer

3. To Choose a Committee to Supply the Town with a  
School master for the year Ensuing

4. To Accept of the return of the Committe that was to  
Treat with our Neighbours in Ipswich farms Coming into  
Township with us and to Act on that Affair as Shall be  
Needfull

5 To Allow Swine to Go at Large as the Law Directs

6 To Allow bills of Charge

Dat<sup>d</sup> Topsfield March the 16<sup>th</sup> A: D: 1738-9

Dan Clarke	} of Topsfield	John Wildes	} Selectmen
Constable		Tobijah Perkins	
		Daniel Gould	
		Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	

At A Legall Town Meeting in Topsfield March y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup>  
1738-9





- 1 Mr John Wildes is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted
- 2 Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould is Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Grand jury  
y<sup>e</sup> year Ensuing voted
- 3 Mr Jesse Dorman and Mr Nathaniel Bordman are Drawn  
out of the box to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the next In-  
feriour Court to be holden at Ipswich
- 4 Mr Richard Towne is Chosen Town Treasurer for y<sup>e</sup>  
year Ensuing voted
- 5 Mr Nathaniel Porter Jun<sup>r</sup> M<sup>r</sup> David Commings & M<sup>r</sup>  
Matthew Peabody are Chosen a Committe to provide a  
School master for the Town for the year Ensuing voted
- 6 The Town Manifested by a Vote that they are willing to  
Receive our Neighbours in Ipswich farms Lying on the North  
Side of the River into Township with us they being at y<sup>e</sup>  
whole Charge of their being Sett off to this Town
- 7 Lieu<sup>t</sup> Tobijah Perkins and M<sup>r</sup> Thomas Howlett are Cho-  
sen to Inform our Said Neighbours of the Towns Last Vote  
Concerning their being Laid to our Town, and to Desire an  
answer from our Said Neighbours whether they will take up  
with Said Vote or not and Make return to y<sup>e</sup> Town at the  
next Town meeting voted
- 8 The Town agrees that Swine Shall go at Large this year  
according as the Law Gives Liberty voted
- 9 The Town allowed two Shillings and Six pence to Mr  
Nathaniel Capen for Mending the West Gallary in y<sup>e</sup> Meet-  
ing house voted
- 10 The Town Allowed one pound four Shillings & Six  
pence 1-4-6 to Mr John Perkins for Sweeping the Meeting  
[house] three Quarters of the Last year and for Mending  
the Latch of the East Door voted
- 11 The Town Allowed one pound 1-0-0 to Cap<sup>t</sup> Ivory  
Hovey for Serving Town Treasurer the two Last years voted

At a Meeting of the Selectmen of Salem Aprill 2<sup>d</sup> 1739  
this being the year for Perambulations according to Law the  
s<sup>d</sup> Selectmen have Agreed & Do hereby appoint and Impow-  
er the persons here after Named or any two of them: to  
Meet with such persons as the Selectmen of Topsfield Shall  
Appoint on Monday y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> of Aprill Currant at Ten a Clock  
at the house of Mr Samuel Porter to Perambulate & renew





the bounds between Salem & Topsfield viz Mess<sup>r</sup> Samuel flint, Thomas Lee, Samuel Gardner, Samuel Carlton & Israel Andrew as by Record Appears

Attest John Higginson Town Cler

Pursuant to the within order and at the time therein Directed we Met & Perambulated and renewed the bounds between Salem & Topsfield: Begining at a Large White Oak Tree Marked S. W. T. with a heap of Stones around it Near Wenham Causey: And from thence to a heap of Stones between a black or Red Oak Stump (the Tree being Newly fell<sup>d</sup>) and an old Stump in Bixbys orchard, and from thence to a heap of Stones near the Corner of Thomas Dwinels Pasture and from thence to a heap of Stones Near Nickolles Brook a Little above the Sawmill and So on in the same Course to s<sup>d</sup> Brook

for	{ Joseph Herrick Thomas O <sup>his</sup> Dwinel Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne <sup>mark</sup> Nathaniel Porter Jun <sup>r</sup>		{ Tho Lee Israel Andrew Samuel flint	
Topsfield				for Salem

A True Copy Attest

Jacob Peabody Town Cler

We the Subscribers being appointed to Perambulate & renew the Bounds between Topsfield & Boxford accordingly Met on y<sup>e</sup> 23<sup>rd</sup> of Aprill 1739 and Renewed the bounds Begining at y<sup>e</sup> Apple tree in Cap<sup>t</sup> Perleys field to a Stake and heap of Stones at the South Easterly Corner of Mr Bakers farm now in Boxford, and from thence to a Damm Called Andrews Damm near to Mr Thomas Goulds house And from thence: being the Place where the water Now runs under s<sup>d</sup> Damm Southerly to a Stake and heap of Stones by the fishing Brook on the Easterly Side of the Rivulet runing into Said Brook and thence as s<sup>d</sup> Brook runs into the river Called Ipswich River and thence up s<sup>d</sup> River to Middleton Line

Jeremiah Perley

Ivory Hovey

A True Copy attest Jacob Peabody

John Andrew

T: Cler

Ephriam Wildes

The ffreeholders and other inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield that are Quallified as the Law Directs for Voting





are Notified & warned to Assemble & meet together at the Meeting house in Said Topsfield on fryday the Eleventh Day of May Currant at three of the Clock after noon

1 To Choose a Representative; to Serve in the General Court

2 To Reckon with Cap<sup>t</sup> Hovey, former Treasurer for Topsfield

3 To Accept y<sup>e</sup> Return of the Committe, that was to Treat with our Neighbours in Ipswich farms, Comming into Township with us And to Act on that Affair

4 To Allow Bills of Charge

5 To Chuse a Grave Diger

6 To See what the Town will do about the Line between Wenham and Topsfield

Dated Topsfield May the Second Day A : D : 1739

Dan Clarke

Daniel Redington

Constable of Topsfield

John Wildes

Benj<sup>a</sup> Towne

} Selectmen  
of Topsfield

A True Copy of the Notification

Attest Jacob Peabody Town Cler

At A Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield May y<sup>e</sup> 11<sup>th</sup> 1739

1 Jacob Peabody is Chosen Representative to Serve at the General Court at their Several Sessions the year Ensuing

voted

2 And then Mr Daniel Redington was Chosen Moderator to order the other affairs of s<sup>d</sup> meeting

voted

3 voted That the Selectmen Shall Reckon with Cap<sup>t</sup> Ivory Hovey a former Town Treasurer

4 Cap<sup>t</sup> Ivory Hovey, Lieu<sup>t</sup> Tobijah Perkins & Jacob Peabody are Appointed and Chosen they or Either of them to Joyn with our Neighbours in Ipswich Farms Lying on y<sup>e</sup> North Side of the River in Petitioning to the Town of Ipswich and also to y<sup>e</sup> Generall Court in order to git our s<sup>d</sup> Neighbours Set off from Ipswich to Topsfield: provided our Said Neighbours will be at y<sup>e</sup> whole Charge of s<sup>d</sup> affair

voted

5 The Town Allowed To Cap<sup>t</sup> Ivory Hovey four pounds six shillings and three pence: So much being in two former Constables hands which s<sup>d</sup> Hovey could not recover when he was Treasurer

voted

6 The Town Allowed fourty Shillings to Mr John Wildes





for Sixty rails & Twelve posts and for setting them upon y<sup>e</sup> parsonage and for Mending up Some other parsonage fence  
voted 2-0-0

Voted that Cap<sup>t</sup> Joseph Gould Mr John Wildes and Mr Edmond Towne Mr Nathaniel Averill Jun<sup>r</sup> & Jacob Peabody or the Major part of them be a Committe to Meet with Such Men as the Town of Wenham hath Appointed or Shall Appoint to fix and Settle A Corner bounds between Wenham & Topsfield on Salem Line in the place where a Straight Line from the heap of Stones (which Wenham and Topsfield have often renewed as a Corner bounds) to the Plump of Maples in the Divisional Line between Said Towns Crosses Said Salem Line

The Freeholders and other Inhabitants of the Town of Topsfield Such as are Qualified as the Law Directs for Voting: are hereby Notified & Warned to Assemble and Meet together at y<sup>e</sup> Meeting house in Topsfield on Munday the Seventeenth Day of September Currant at one of the Clock afternoon

- 1 To Choose Jury men for Newbery Court
- 2 To See if the Town will Do any thing about Mr Emersons Salary
- 3 To See if y<sup>e</sup> Town will Give y<sup>e</sup> Committe y<sup>t</sup> was Chosen to Settle bounds with Wenham any further Power
- 4 To See how much Money y<sup>e</sup> Town will raise this year
- 5 To Allow Bills of Charge

Dated Topsfield September 12<sup>th</sup> 1739

Benj <sup>a</sup> Towne	} Selectmen of Topsfield
Tho <sup>s</sup> Baker Constable: John Wildes	
Daniel Redington	

A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Notification attest Jacob Peabody T: Cl

At a Legal Town Meeting in Topsfield Sep<sup>t</sup> y<sup>e</sup> 17<sup>th</sup> 1739

- 1 Mr John Wildes is Chosen Moderator for this Meeting  
voted
- 2 Mr Nathaniel Averill Jun<sup>r</sup> & Mr Thomas Howlet are Chosen to Serve on y<sup>e</sup> Jury of Tryalls at the Next Inferiour Court to be holden at Newbury  
voted
- 3 Voted that the Selectmen Shall raise a Tax of Eighty pounds to Defray the Town Charges this year





4 Whereas the Committe that was Chosen the Eleventh of May Last in order to Settle y<sup>e</sup> bounds between Wenham and Topsfield: Have not agreed with Wenham Committe about the bounds: and after Some Discourse on s<sup>d</sup> affair the Question was put whether the Town will Give our s<sup>d</sup> Committe any further Power in order to Said Settlement and it passed in the Negative

5 The Town allowed the School Committe viz Mr Matthew Peabody, Mr Nathaniel Porter Jun<sup>r</sup> & Mr David Commings 13-15-0 thirteen pound fifteen Shillings to pay the School master for two Months & three weeks Service in keeping School this year voted

6 The Town Allowed one pound thirteen Shillings & three pence 1-13-3 to Mr Benjamin Towne, for buying Several Measures for the Town and for Gitting the Town Waights and Measures Seal[e]d voted

7 The Town Allowed one pound Six Shillings to Phillip Towne for 20 five hole posts & two Days work about y<sup>e</sup> parsonage voted

8 The Town Gave the Towns old half bushel to Dan Clark for bringing a New half bushel from Salem voted

Boston 3<sup>d</sup> July 1739 Rec<sup>d</sup> of the Trustees of Topsfield p hand Mr Jacob Peabody Fifty two pounds Sixteen Shillings being the Last 5<sup>th</sup> of the 60000 £ Loan, and two pounds two Shillings three pence interest to June 1738

W<sup>m</sup> Frye Treasurer

This is A True Copy of y<sup>e</sup> Treasurers Receipt Attest Jacob Peabody T Cler

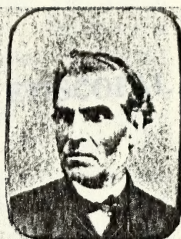
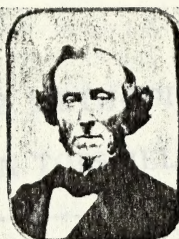
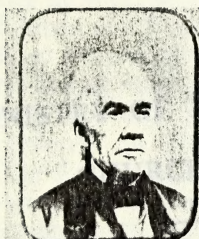
September y<sup>e</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> 1739 The Congregation in Topsfield Contributed the Sum of Eight pounds Seventeen Shillings and Six pence towards the Support of the Reverend Mr Torrys Cause in Secureing the Ministerial Lands in Narraganset for a Congregational Minister Which Sum I Delivered to the Reverend Mr Thomas Prince a Pastor of y<sup>e</sup> old South church in Boston and took a Receipt for y<sup>e</sup> Same

Jacob Peabody

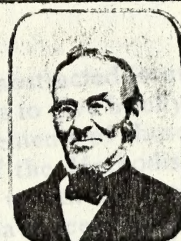
(To be continued.)



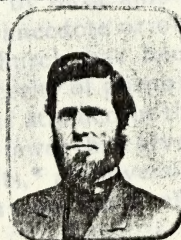
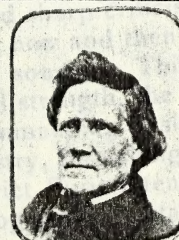
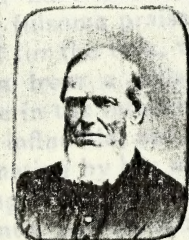




JACOB SANBORN. C.S. MACREADING. H.C. DUNHAM.



I.J.P. COLLYER. M.P. WEBSTER. Wm R. STONE.



K. ATKINSON. A. F. BAILEY. F. FURBER.

The history of this Church is given in Volume III of these Historical Collections where Mrs. Clarissa A. Glazier (now deceased) accurately and most interestingly

\*Mess. Swinerton, Paulson, Rodgers, Manson, Cornick, Dixon and Reader.

†Rev. James T. Docking





relates the story of the inception and growth of the organization.

It well may be said that Ezra Glazier of Ipswich, was the founder of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Topsfield. He was born at West Heylston, Mass., December 18, 1800, the son of Jason and Sarah (Dismore) Glazier. With very limited school advantages, at an early age he came to Salem in 1818 and found employment as a baker. To him the spread of the Kingdom of God was of great importance, and he entered into active service with intense zeal and unbounded enthusiasm. He preached the hearts of the people in a remarkable manner. His field of labor was included in his field of labor, and the first service held in the North school house in May 1819. Regular worship was then

## THE MINISTRY OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN TOPSFIELD.

BY LEONE PARKER WELCH.

The plan and scope of this paper, which in abstracted form was read before the Society, March 6, 1914, is to give briefly an insight into the life, character and achievements of those who have been the official spiritual leaders of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Topsfield. From the wealth of biographical material at hand statements of fact have been culled, to which have been added personal estimates (carefully avoiding fulsome praise and sharp criticism) by those amply qualified for the task, with now and then an anecdote or observation from a reliable source. This church has been fortunate in the intellectual strength, the sincerity of purpose and the influential and commanding positions attained in the denomination by her ministry, furnishing no fewer than seven Presiding Elders or District Superintendents,\* a University President,† writers of recognized reputation and many efficient pastors.

The history of this church as a society may be found in Volume III of these Historical Collections where Mrs. Clarissa A. Glazier (now deceased) accurately and most interestingly

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Rev. Jacob Sanborn, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Ipswich, in 1830, naturally was interested in extending Methodism and upon his attention being called to the Topsfield opportunity he volunteered to hold preaching services here during the summer of 1830, which offer was gladly accepted, and in August he baptised thirteen people in the Ipswich River in the rear of Capt. Adams' barn, in the presence of a large company. Mr. Sanborn, the son of Deacon Abraham and Deborah Sanborn, who were Baptists, was born in Unity, New Hampshire, May 16, 1788. He joined the New England Conference in 1812 and was Presiding Elder on the New Hampshire District in 1818-1822. He died March 16, 1867.



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THE PASTORAL SUCCESSION.

William Nanscawen	1830	Franklin G. Morris	1864-1866
Asa U. Swinerton	1830-1831	George E. Chapman	1866-1867
Robert D. Estabrook	1831-1832	William D. Bridge	1867-1869
Thomas Stetson	1832-1833	Stephen F. Chase	1869-1870
David Culver	1833-1834	James F. Mears	1870-1872
Benjamin King	1834	Samuel A. Fuller	1872-1873
Charles S. Macreading	1834	George W. Buzzell	1873-1875
Henry B. Skinner	1834-1836	William H. Meredith	1875-1877
John E. Risley	1836	Stephen L. Rodgers	1877-1879
Simon E. Pike	1836	George H. Clarke	1879-1882
George F. Pool	1836-1838	Albert C. Manson	1882-1883
George W. Bates	1838-1839	Nathaniel H. Martin	1883-1886
Chester Field, Jr.	1839-1840	James T. Docking	1886-1887
Leonard B. Griffin	1840-1841	Paul C. Curnick	1887-1889
Amos Walton	1841-1842	Theodore W. Haven	1889-1890
Ziba B. C. Dunham	1842-1843	Charles H. Fuller	1890-1892
Isaac J. P. Collyer	1843-1845	Samuel Reid	1892-1893
Moses P. Webster	1845-1846	Joseph Simpson	1893-1894
John Paulson	1846-1847	Lewis J. Reader	1894-1895
William R. Stone	1847-1849	John B. Gough	1895-1896
Kinsman Atkinson	1849-1851	I. Murray Mellish	1896-1900
John G. Cary	1851-1853	William N. Roberts	1900-1902
Augustus F. Bailey	1853-1854	Edwin C. Dixon	1902-1903
Jeremiah W. Bemis	1854	H. William Hook	1903-1905
Stephen G. Hiller, Jr.	1854-1855	Herbert S. Dow	1905-1907
John C. Smith	1855-1856	John G. Benson	1907-1909
Franklin Furber	1856-1857	Ottis Tevis Martin	1909-1911
Abraham M. Osgood	1857-1858	William H. McLean	1911
George Sutherland	1858-1860	William R. Ward	1911-1912
Joseph W. Lewis	1860-1861	George M. Boicourt	1912-1914
Abraham D. Merrill	1861-1863	Phillipp Deschner	1914-
Edwin S. Snow	1863-1864		

REV. WILLIAM NANSCAWEN.

He was a local preacher\* and is entitled to the distinction of having been the first appointee of a Presiding Elder to this people which occurred in September, 1830, but as he served only a month, it is not surprising that he left no foot-prints of the sands of time which are now discernible. Perhaps it should added that failing health caused the brevity of his stay.

\*By local preachers is meant one who has been hired to preach but without authority to administer the sacrament.

## THE PASTORAL SUCCESSION.

1864-1866	Franklin G. Morris	1870	William Nassawawan
1866-1867	George E. Chapman	1869-1871	Asa U. Swinton
1867-1869	William D. Bridge	1871-1872	Robert D. Parkhouse
1869-1870	Stephen F. Chase	1872-1873	Thomas Steison
1870-1872	James F. Morris	1873-1874	David Colver
1872-1873	Samuel A. Teller	1874	Benjamin King
1873-1875	George W. Russell	1875	Charles S. Macswallow
1875-1877	William H. Merdith	1876-1878	Henry B. Skinner
1877-1879	Stephen L. Rodgers	1878	John E. Kelsey
1879-1881	George M. Clarke	1879	Simon E. Kile
1881-1883	Albert C. Hanson	1880	George F. Pool
1883-1886	Marshall H. Martin	1881-1882	George W. Bates
1886-1887	James T. Docking	1882-1883	Charles Fishb. Jr.
1887-1889	Paul C. Cornick	1883-1884	Leonard B. Child
1889-1890	Theodore W. Haynes	1884-1885	Anna Walton
1890-1892	Charles H. Teller	1885-1887	Ziba H. C. Dorman
1892-1893	Samuel Reid	1887-1888	Isaac J. R. Colver
1893-1894	Joseph Simpson	1888-1889	Storer F. Webster
1894-1895	Isaac J. Keeler	1889-1890	John Paxson
1895-1896	John D. Gould	1890-1891	William R. Stone
1896-1898	I. Moray Mellich	1891-1892	Kenneth Atkinson
1898-1899	William N. Roberts	1892-1893	John G. Cary
1899-1900	Edwin C. Dixon	1893-1894	Augustus E. Bailey
1900-1901	H. William Hook	1894	Jeremiah W. Dennis
1901-1902	Robert S. How	1894-1895	Stephen C. Hill, Jr.
1902-1903	John C. Benson	1895-1896	John C. Smith
1903-1904	Orin Terry Martin	1896-1897	Franklin F. White
1904	William H. McKean	1897-1898	Abraham M. Osgood
1905-1906	William R. Ward	1898-1899	George Hubbard
1906-1907	George M. Hotcom	1899-1900	Joseph W. Lewis
1907	Philip Peabody	1900-1901	Abraham D. Merrill
		1901-1902	Edwin B. Snow

## REV. WILLIAM NASSAWAWAN.

He was a local preacher\* and is entitled to the distinction of having been the first appointed of a Presiding Elder to this people which occurred in September, 1850. But as he served only a month, it is not surprising that he left no foot-prints of the sands of time which are now discernible. Perhaps it should added that failing health caused the brevity of his stay.

\*By local preachers is meant one who has been hired to preach but without authority to administer the sacrament.



## REV. ASA U. SWINERTON.

He finished the conference year of 1830. He was the son of John Swinerton, Jr., and Elizabeth (Upton) Swinerton, and was born in Danvers, October 30, 1801, and joined the New England Conference on trial in 1830. From the fact that the society was organized into a Methodist Episcopal Church within a month of his arrival (on October 20th) we may assume that his appointment was wise and that his service was efficient. He was Presiding Elder of the New London District, 1838-1840, and died at Monument (Sandwich, Mass.), October 12, 1863.

## REV. ROBERT D. ESTERBROOK.

He was born in Barnstable, October 7, 1803, and was appointed to this charge in 1831. He was a person of deep religious conviction and of high spirituality and his ministry found pastor and people working shoulder to shoulder in the erection of a house of worship, an enterprise which was carried to a successful conclusion. The building (dedicated December 28, 1831) was located on the westerly side of the Newburyport Turnpike between Ipswich Street and the Old Ipswich Road. His death occurred November 4, 1852.

## REV. THOMAS STETSON.

He was the son of Thomas and Lydia Drew (Hollis) Stetson and was born January 7, 1804, at Scituate, and died December 28, 1881, at East Pembroke. With his savings while a district schoolteacher he pursued his studies at Wesleyan Academy, Wilbraham, and in 1832 was admitted to the New England Conference. He was pastor of the church in 1832, and appears to have been an optimist amid discouraging surroundings, but his faithful service produced but little in the way of tangible results. He remained in the Conference but four years. He was six feet or more in stature, spare of flesh, with clear cut features; a strong intellectual face. He was a subscriber to Zion's Herald when it was first issued and it continued to come regularly to the Stetson home until the death of his widow in 1892.

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## REV. DAVID CULVER.

He was an evangelistic preacher, and was stationed here in 1833, and the pastorate met with a good measure of success. In 1840 he withdrew from the Conference and no further information concerning him is now obtainable. He was the first married pastor of the Topsfield Church.

## REV. BENJAMIN KING.

He was a local preacher and supplied the church for a few weeks in 1834 and then was relieved from service at his own request. He was paid his travelling expenses, but received no compensation for his services.

## REV. CHARLES S. MACREADING.

He was born in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, February 3, 1811, and died in Plainfield, Illinois, April 12, 1866. He was a licensed preacher at the age of twenty years and admitted to the New England Conference in 1831 and was pastor at Topsfield in 1834 until November. He was a man of ability, but his intemperate speech about neutralized his excellent pastoral services. During the Civil War he was chaplain of the 39th Illinois Infantry.

## REV. HENRY B. SKINNER.

Mr. Skinner was a local preacher who supplied the church from November, 1834 to July, 1835. He was the son of Elias and Sarah A. Skinner and was born at Taunton. He was admitted to this Conference in 1835, but in 1843, owing to continued ill health, he resigned. He was a preacher of power and many felt the touch of new life. For several years he was a broker in Boston, and committed suicide in Young's Hotel on July 2, 1888.

## REV. JOHN EDWARD RISLEY.

He was pastor of the church from January to April, 1836. The son of George and Jerusha Risley, he was born at Greensboro, Vermont, March 27, 1802, and was a member



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## REV. JOHN EDWARD RISKY.

He was pastor of the church from January to April, 1836. The son of George and Jemima Risky, he was born in Greensboro, Vermont, March 27, 1802, and was a member

of the Conference from 1822 to 1841. He was a voluminous writer. The history of the churches he served in the Needham District, containing his experiences and personal estimate of the condition of these churches, is deposited with the Methodist Episcopal Historical Society, Boston. He died October 6, 1889, at Framingham.

REV. SIMON E. PIKE.

He was pastor from April to December, in 1836. He was admitted to the Conference in 1836 and spent his entire ministerial life in this charge. He was discontinued by the Conference in 1837.

REV. GEORGE FRANKLIN POOL.

He was pastor from December, 1836 to July, 1838. He was the son of James and Darkis (Mansfield) Pool, and was born in Lynn, February 18, 1811, and graduated from Brown University in 1833. He was admitted to the Conference in 1837, and, with the exception of the years 1842 and 1843 when he was principal of Kent Academy, East Greenwich, accepted regular appointments until 1850 and then located. He died November 6, 1886, at Lynn. During his pastorate in Topsfield many were brought into active Christian service.

REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON BATES.

Mr. Bates, the pastor in 1838, was the son of Rev. Lewis and Elizabeth (Webster) Bates and was born in Salisbury, October 16, 1811, graduated from the Wesleyan Academy at Wilbraham, and died Sept. 24, 1851. He was a man of deep spiritual life, exceptional ability and original ideas, and his pastorate witnessed large accessions to the church. His son, Rev. George Hubert Bates, was born in Topsfield, May 3, 1839.

REV. CHESTER FIELD, JR.

Mr. Field, the pastor in 1839, was the son of Chester and Sophia Field, and was born in Deerfield, September 4, 1816

of the Conference from 1822 to 1841. He was a voluminous writer. The history of the churches he served in the New-England District, containing his experiences and personal estimates of the condition of these churches is deposited with the Methodist Episcopal Historical Society, Boston. He died October 6, 1889, at Birmingham.

#### REV. SIMON E. PRICE

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#### REV. CHESTER FIELD, JR.

Mr. Field, the pastor in 1839, was the son of Chester and Sophia Field, and was born in Ipswich, September 4, 1816.



and died Nov. 24, 1864, at Newtonville. He was a man of executive ability and was the first pastor of the Saratoga Street (East Boston) M. E. Church. He had a fine voice, was ready and rich in prayer and instructive in discourse, simple and engaging in manner. A lover of good books, his library of more than 3,000 volumes was the largest of any traveling preacher in his day. An admirable conversationalist. During this pastorate the meeting house was moved from the Turnpike to the present Lake-Elliott land on Main street.

#### REV. LEONARD B. GRIFFIN.

He was the pastor in 1840 and during his pastorate many were stirred to live the Christian life, but he withdrew from the Conference in 1845 and no facts relative to his later career have been traced.

#### REV. AMOS WALTON.

He was the son of William and Sarah Walton, was born at Fitchburg, June 10, 1804, joined the Conference in 1842 and was expelled therefrom in 1851. He was the pastor at Topsfield in 1841. Everyone was impressed with his intense sincerity and convincing form of stating Christian truths. He was the first pastor of the Peabody (M. E.) church. During his residence in Topsfield he lived in the house on Main street now owned by E. Otis Gould. He died Oct. 10, 1892, at Lowell.

#### REV. ZIBA BASS CARY DUNHAM.

The pastor in 1842 was the son of Ezra and Polly (Cary) Dunham, and was born in Abington, January 19, 1813. In 1838 he was admitted to the Conference on trial and retained membership therein for 68 years. For 14 years he was connected with the American Peace Society and delivered the semi-centennial address before the Conference in 1888. He died January 21, 1906, at Winthrop.

He wrote a very strange article upon "The use of Tobacco" which he deposited with the Methodist Episcopal Historical

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Society, with instructions that the envelope should not be opened until after his death. By an act of the Legislature in 1849 his name was changed to Howard Cary Dunham.

REV. ISAAC J. P. COLLYER.

The pastor in 1843 and 1844, was the son of William and Margaret Collyer, and was born in Seekonk, May 19, 1814. He died May 7, 1872, at Boston Highlands. He preached his first and last sermon at Boston Highlands. He was the first preacher to remain with the Topsfield church for two years. He had a passion for winning souls. A former associate has said:—"He was the greatest preacher I ever knew to present the law—the terrors of Divine condemnation on unrepentant sinners. I now distinctly recall two or three of these sermons which he delivered at Asbury Grove. Under the clearness, dignity, tenderness and effectiveness of his appeal all opposition gave way to tender and penitential feeling on the part of his hearers. He was a man of fine presence and among those who left the most abiding reputation as a preacher of great power."

During his first year in Topsfield he lived in the "Stone house" on Salem street (built in 1836 and taken down in 1885); his residence the second year was the house now owned by Mrs. Annah Balch Jordan. The latter house has also been the residence of Rev. John Emerson and Rev. Rodney Gove Dennis of the Congregational Church.

REV. MOSES P. WEBSTER.

The pastor in 1845 was the son of Joseph and Sophia Webster and was born in Sanford, Maine, July 11, 1810. In 1821 he joined the Maine Conference and in 1845 was transferred to the New England Conference and sent to Topsfield. He died April 28, 1891, in Leominster. This pastorate was conspicuous by reason of the apparent absence of aggressive Christian work.

REV. JOHN PAULSON.

The pastor in 1846 was born in Canada in 1820. His



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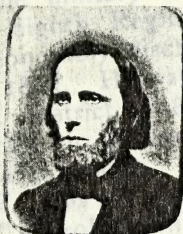
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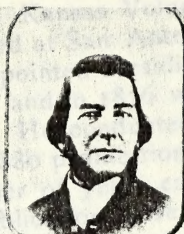
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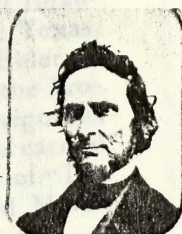
education was received at the Wesleyan Academy and at the Biblical Institute of Concord, N. H. He joined the Conference in 1845 and in 1858 removed to Kansas. He was mustered into the military service of the United States as chaplain in the 1st Cavalry, and was killed at Fort Scott, November 23, 1864. He was a prohibition candidate but unsuccessful in Kansas. New Century, 4, 1893.



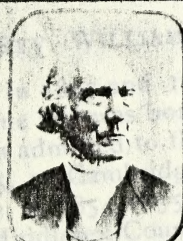
A.M. OSGOOD.



G.SUTHERLAND.



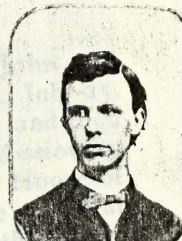
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A.D. MERRILL.



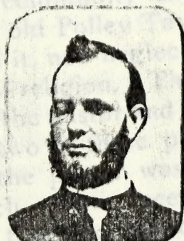
E.S. SNOW.



F.G. MORRIS.



GEO. E. CHAPMAN.



W.D. BRIDGE.



N.H. MARTIN.

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REV. KINSMAN ATKINSON.

The pastor in 1849 and 1850, was the son of Samuel and Sarah Atkinson, and was born at Buxton, Maine, October 10, 1807, and died Dec. 23, 1889, at Cambridge, Mass. He was



J.W. LEWIS



G. SUTHERLAND



A.M. OSGOOD



F.C. MORRIS



E.S. SNOW



A.D. MERRILL



N.H. MARTIN



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G.E. CHAPMAN



education was received at the Wesleyan Academy and at the Biblical Institute of Concord, N. H. He joined the Conference in 1845 and in 1858 removed to Kansas. He was mustered into the military service of the United States as chaplain in the Eighth Regiment, Kansas Volunteer Infantry, and was honorably discharged at San Antonio, Texas, November 28, 1865. He was appointed Presiding Elder of the Fort Scott District in 1869; and in 1876 was the Prohibition candidate for Governor. He conducted a vigorous but unsuccessful campaign. In 1880 prohibition was carried in Kansas. He was for a number of years editor of "The New Century," a Prohibition publication. He died March 4, 1893.

#### REV. WILLIAM RODMAN STONE.

The pastor in 1847 and 1848, was the son of John and Elizabeth Stone and was born in Portsmouth, N. H., July 25, 1798, and was admitted to the conference in 1825, and died June 28, 1875, at Cambridgeport. He was City Missionary of Cambridge in 1854-1855, and chaplain of the House of Correction, Middlesex County, 1856-1870. While pastor at South Walpole he became greatly exercised for the future welfare of the church and the community and appointed a meeting at the parsonage—the old Polley Tavern—for anyone who was willing to come to it, not neglecting any other meeting, to pray for a revival of religion. The meeting was attended by one person beside the pastor and for a considerable time it had no more than two or three present. Afterwards it began to fill up and the pastor was obliged to remove the meeting to the church, where meetings were held every evening, with the result that the church experienced the greatest revival in its history and in which every official member save one, who was a sea captain and came in afterwards, was converted to God.

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graduated from Harvard in 1834, and in 1838 was ordained to the Congregational ministry but having changed his views of church polity, he joined the Methodist Conference in 1843. He had supreme confidence in his own judgment and used all resources at his command to carry to successful completion all lines of work undertaken. He taught the Winter term of the Linebrook (Ipswich) school in 1848-9, the fall term of 1849 of the Topsfield Academy and also the North school, Topsfield, during the winter of 1849-50. He was regarded as a scholarly man and was very helpful in cultivating scholarly tastes among his pupils. The present parsonage is a monument to his untiring efforts for Mr. Atkinson purchased the lot on High street and had made substantial progress in the erection of the house at his own expense, before the church caught the spirit of co-operation and even then the flame of enthusiasm burned so slowly that the building was not completed during the pastorate. Prior to the erection of this parsonage, the ministers resided, with the exceptions before mentioned, in the Porter house on the Turnpike, built in 1808.

#### REV. JOHN G. CARY.

The pastor in 1851 and 1852, was the son of Phineas and Hannah (Trumbull) Cary, and was born at Worcester, September 20, 1817 and died May 11, 1904 at Boston. He received regular assignments in the Conference from 1849 to 1854. He was secretary of the Boston Wesleyan Association for 19 years, and for 20 years of the Asbury Camp Meeting Association, and for many years of the Preachers' Aid Society. He was an exceedingly conscientious and devoted man of God. Retiring from the ministry by reason of a throat affection, he engaged in the leather business in Boston for a number of years and met with unusual success. Before entering commercial life, it appears that he made a pledge that if he was ever worth a certain sum of money he would retire. He easily reached his goal, and true to his word, retired from business. Afterwards finding that his income was insufficient to give him adequate support, he re-entered his old firm, was again successful, and a few years



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### REV. JOHN G. CARY.

The pastor in 1851 and 1852, was the son of Thomas and Hannah (Trumbull) Cary, and was born at Worcester, September 30, 1817, and died May 11, 1904 at Boston. He received regular assignments in the Conference from 1840 to 1854. He was secretary of the Boston Western Association for 10 years, and for 20 years of the Asbury Camp Meeting Association, and for many years of the Preachers Aid Society. He was an exceedingly conscientious and devoted man of God. Retiring from the ministry by reason of a throat affection, he engaged in the leather business in Boston for a number of years and met with unusual success. Before entering commercial life it appears that he made a pledge that if he was ever worth a certain sum of money he would retire. He easily reached his goal, and true to his word, retired from business. Afterwards finding that his income was insufficient to give him adequate support, he re-entered his old firm, was again successful, and a few years

later permanently retired from active business. A large part of his estate was given to the Preachers' Aid Society of the Conference. He lived in the house now occupied by Dr. Jenkins, Billingsgate Hill road, until the parsonage on High street was ready for occupancy.

#### REV. AUGUSTUS FRANKLIN BAILEY.

The pastor in 1853, was the son of Col. Uriah and Julia (Gage) Bailey, and was born in West Newbury, October 12, 1819. While a law student he joined the Congregational Church, but upon deciding to enter the ministry his views of church polity changed, and he cast his lot with the Methodists, and was admitted to Conference in 1850 and received appointments till 1868, when he was transferred to the Troy Conference, where he remained for seventeen years. In 1862 he engaged in a notable debate with Rev. Geo. M. Steele before the Preachers' Meeting in Boston on the "Pre-millennial coming of Christ." He was the first preacher appointed by Conference to the Ballardvale (M. E.) Church. He was a man of attractive presence, of rather ready wit and a man of positive convictions. He possessed a comfortable estate and passed an agreeable old age in Bradford, Mass., where he died May 22, 1895.

#### REV. JEREMIAH W. BEMIS.

The pastor from May to September, 1854, was born in Weathersfield, Vermont, November 28, 1819. For a number of years he was a teacher in the Springfield Wesleyan Seminary. In 1846 he was received on trial in the Vermont Annual Conference and in 1854 was transferred to this Conference and was sent to Topsfield, which was his only pastorate in Massachusetts, as he returned to Vermont the following year. For about 8 years he was agent and corresponding secretary of the Vermont Bible Society. He died, April 21, 1894, in Northfield, Vermont. The noteworthy event of this pastorate was the dedication (June 14, 1854) of the present church edifice.

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#### REV. JEREMIAH W. HARRIS.

The pastor from May to September, 1854, was born in Westfield, Vermont, November 28, 1819. For a number of years he was a teacher in the Springfield Wesleyan Seminary. In 1846 he was received on trial in the Vermont Annual Conference and in 1854 was transferred to this Conference and was sent to Torsfield, which was his only pastorate in Massachusetts, as he returned to Vermont the following year. For about 8 years he was agent and corresponding secretary of the Vermont Bible Society. He died April 21, 1894, in Northfield, Vermont. The noteworthy event of this pastorate was the dedication (June 14, 1854) of the present church edifice.



## REV. STEPHEN G. HILER, JR.

The pastor from December, 1854, to April, 1855, was the son of Stephen G. and Rebecca (Perry) Hiler, and was born in Boston, in 1815. He was admitted to the New England Conference in 1839, and was the first pastor of the North Andover (M. E.) Church. He was a man of very genial manners and died December 9, 1897, in Malden. While in Topsfield he lived in the Elmore Johnson house on Boston street.

## REV. JOHN C. SMITH

The pastor in 1855, was the son of Harry and Maria Smith, and was born in St. Albans, Ohio, June 4, 1826. He joined the Conference in 1848 and filled many of its important pulpits. He displayed far larger financial abilities than capacity for spiritual leadership. He died, April 18, 1890, at West Medway.

## REV. FRANKLIN FURBER.

The pastor in 1856, was the son of David and Sally (Haley) Furber, and was born in Northwood, New Hampshire, November 11, 1816. He joined the New Hampshire Conference in 1840 and served ten charges and was admitted to the New England Conference in 1850, and received nineteen appointments here. He acquired a handsome property, and was of material assistance to young preachers of promise. A man to be respected, honored, and trusted. He died February 28, 1903, at Milton.

## REV. ABRAHAM M. OSGOOD.

The pastor in 1857 was a son of Capt. Isaac and Betsey (Ham) Osgood and was born at Epping, N. H., May 29, 1813. He was admitted to the N. H. Conference in 1839, and later to the N. E. Conference. He was in the active ministry but a few years as his health failed him at the age of 22 years. He was drowned at Stonington, Conn., Feb. 8, 1878, and the funeral was held in the M. E. Church in Marblehead where his son was then living. He had all the

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enthusiasm and earnestness of the old-time preacher and after pastor and people became adjusted to each other a season of in gathering followed.

### REV. GEORGE SUTHERLAND.

The pastor in 1858 and 1859 was a son of George and Macrelia (Byron) Sutherland and was born in Boston, July 16, 1806, and died July 31, 1891, at Chelsea. He was received on probation in the Conference in 1825, but in 1832 by reason of impaired health he was compelled to take a superannuary relation and in 1836 he engaged in business in Boston. In 1855 he was re-admitted to Conference and received appointments till 1874 when he became a supernumery and in 1888 was superannuated. He was the first pastor of the Bellingham (M. E.) Church, Chelsea. His pastorate in Topsfield stands out with clearness by reason of his success in freeing the church from an indebtedness of about \$3,300. It should be borne in mind that the meeting house was being advertised for sale at public auction to satisfy debts long overdue when Mr. Sutherland received the appointment, but when informed of the desperate financial condition, he immediately called a meeting of the Board of Trustees to devise ways and means of saving the property. At this meeting the Board admitted their inability to cope with the situation and thereupon the pastor, single handed, secured a postponement of the sale and by a house to house canvass raised the sum required to cancel the indebtedness. His dismissal of the choir at the close of his final church service astonished and embarrassed even his closest friends.

### REV. JOSEPH WHITMORE LEWIS.

The pastor in 1860 was the son of Timothy and Sally Wait (Whitmore) Lewis and the eldest of nine children. He was born in Royalston, Mass., June 23, 1812. He was received on trial in the Conference in 1835 and is generally credited with preaching the first Methodist sermon in Clinton. He died in Clinton, January 17, 1889.



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### REV. JOSEPH WHITMORE LEWIS.

The pastor in 1860 was the son of Timothy and Sally Wain (Whitmore) Lewis and the eldest of nine children. He was born in Roxbury, Mass., June 23, 1812. He was received on trial in the Conference in 1835 and is generally credited with preaching the first Methodist sermon in Clinton. He died in Clinton, January 12, 1880.

## REV. ABRAHAM DOW MERRILL.

The pastor from 1861 to November, 1862 was a son of Major Joshua and Mehitabel (Dow) Merrill, and was born in Salem, N. H., March 7, 1796. In 1822 he was received on trial in the Conference. He was the first pastor of the Epworth (formerly the North Avenue) M. E. Church in Cambridge. On December 25, 1866, he preached the first Methodist sermon ever heard in East Pepperell.

"I now recall having made him an early morning call while he was stationed at the Bellingham Church, Chelsea. Upon making known my business to Mrs. Merrill, I was informed 'That Mr. Merrill is engaged in private prayer and I never disturb him upon these occasions.' I suspected as much. More than a block away upon approaching the parsonage I heard his voice. My first thought was that he was reading aloud and then that he was addressing a large congregation. I afterward learned that it was the hour of his customary private devotions. He had more language of church experimental sweetness and richness of expression than any minister of my acquaintance. He basked in the sunlight of Heaven."

A bust of Father Merrill occupies a conspicuous place in the rooms of the M. E. Historical Society in the Wesleyan Building, Boston. He died April 29, 1878, in Dorchester.

## REV. EDWIN SMITH SNOW.

The pastor from November, 1862, and in 1863, was born in Eastford, Conn., December 26, 1832. He was graduated from the Wesleyan University in 1858 and taught school in Palmer, Mass., from 1859 to 1862. He joined the Conference in 1863 and received appointments therefrom until 1869 when failing health compelled him to request a supernumery relation and he removed to Eldorado, Kansas, where he died May 21, 1874. He was modest and quiet and of abilities that with greater self confidence would have made a far wider impression.

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## REV. FRANKLIN G. MORRIS.

The pastor in 1864 and 1865 was the son of John and Eliza (Carter) Morris and was born at East Salisbury, Mass., in 1841. He joined the Conference in 1865 and located in 1882. He was a man of greater business than pastoral faculty and was drawn into business at a comparatively early period in life. He was the official court stenographer for Hampden County from February 11, 1889, to April 10, 1909, when he resigned. He is now a photographer in Northampton. August 26, 1869, he was married to Georgie A., daughter of George H. and Olive G. Waterhouse of Topsfield.

## REV. GEORGE E. CHAPMAN.

The pastor in 1866 was the son of James L. and Susan M. (Emmons) Chapman and was born in Sing Sing, New York, in 1811, and died at Gardner, Mass., November 1, 1894. He joined the New England Conference in 1850 and was superannuated in 1880. He was not a man of large gifts or liberal education but was eminently sweet-tempered and deeply devoted to his work.

## REV. WILLIAM DAWSON BRIDGE.

The pastor in 1867 and 1868 was son of Rev. Jonathan D. and Abigail L. Bridge and was born in Duxbury, February 23, 1840. He joined the Conference in 1863 and retired from the active ministry in 1901. He was the official stenographer of the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1880 and 1888, and chief of the reportorial staff from 1892 to 1908. He was Conference necrologist, 1867-1887, and assistant secretary of the Conference for twelve years.

When Mr. Bridge arrived in Topsfield he found the society in a period of struggle and uncertainty, but soon the church began to show life and commencing with January first, meetings were held for one hundred consecutive evenings, the pastor being assisted by Mother Holway and his own mother. Eighty-five persons joined the church on probation and during the pastorate forty-six of this number were received into

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full membership. This is the largest revival in the history of the church. But I have mentioned only the spiritual side of the work, yet the material gains were equally astonishing.

The 50th anniversary of the marriage of Rev. and Mrs. Bridge was observed in Miller Chapel of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Orange, New Jersey, on Thanksgiving eve, 1913, by nearly 300 relatives and friends.

#### REV. STEPHEN FREEMAN CHASE.

The pastor in 1869 was born in Unity, Maine, September 13, 1825. He joined the East Maine Conference in 1859 and in 1867 was transferred to the N. E. Conference and stationed at the Lafayette M. E. Church, Salem. Upon recovering from a severe attack of pneumonia he suggested to the Conference that he receive a small charge and accordingly was assigned to Topsfield. At the close of this pastorate he retired from the active ministry and took up the study and practice of dentistry and for eleven years practiced in Salem. But the work of the ministry had never lost its charm for him and he gladly went back to the pulpit at not over  $\frac{1}{4}$ th the income his practice had given him. At the end of two years his wife's health was such as to forbid continuance in the Methodist itinerancy and he returned to dental practice. He opened an office in Boston but at the request of many citizens of Newtonville, he transferred his practice to that place, where he has conducted a successful business ever since. In 1860 he married Ellen M. Doe of Augusta, Maine, and of their five children, Herbert M., was born in Topsfield, July 11, 1869.

#### REV. JAMES F. MEARS

The pastor in 1870 and 1871 was born in Bristol, Maine, September 6, 1837 and graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1870 and was received as a probationer in the Conference the same year. He received regular assignments until 1902 when he superannuated and took up a residence at Saugus. His preaching was original, Methodistic and spiritual. He died July 20, 1913, at Saugus.



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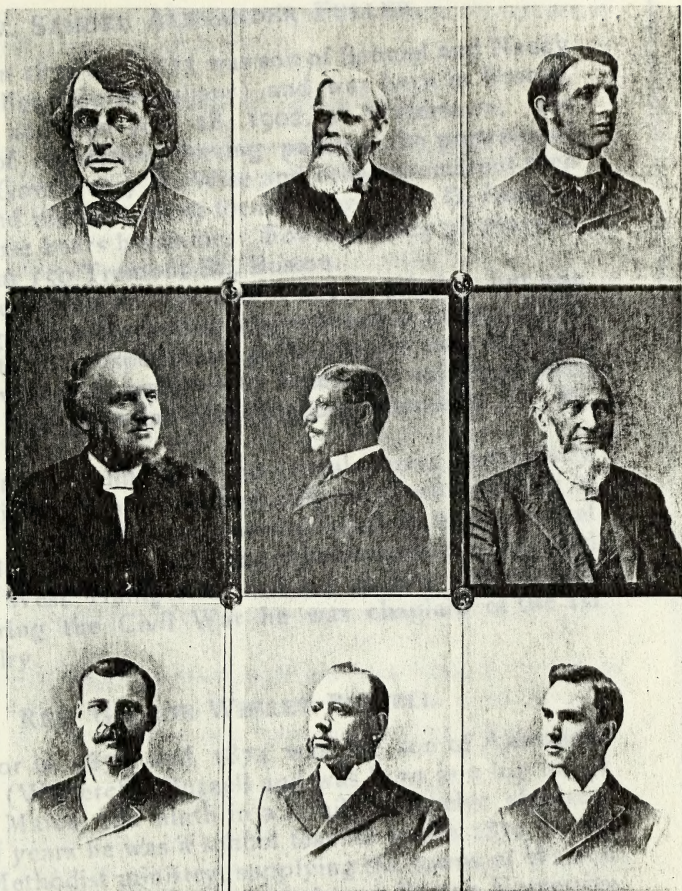
The pastor in 1870 and 1871 was born in Bethel, Maine, September 6, 1837 and graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1870 and was received as a probationer in the Conference the same year. He received temporary assignments until 1901 when he superannuated and took up a residence at Saugus. His preaching was original, Methodist and spiritual. He died July 20, 1913, at Saugus.

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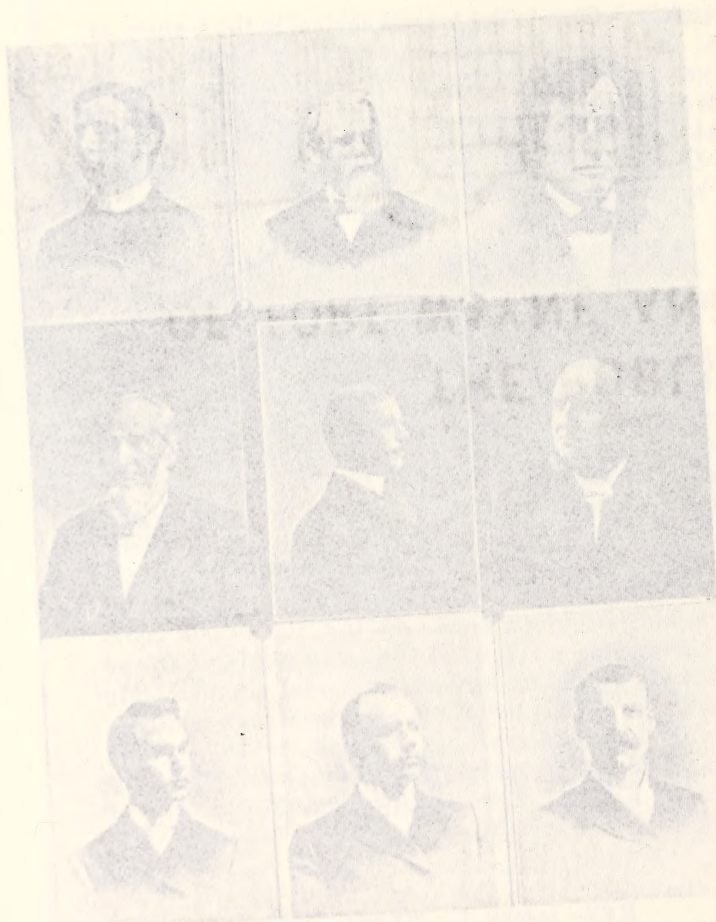
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## REV. SAMUEL ALEXANDER FULLER.

The pastor in 1872 and 1873 was son of Samuel and Nancy (Coombs) Fuller (Episcopalians) and was born in Boston, July 10, 1825, and died July 28, 1902, at Watertown. He was an artist of reputation, having painted the portraits of Henry Clay, Gov. Henry A. Wise and other prominent men of Virginia, and the portrait of former Gov. John D. Long in the State House bears his name. For a number of years he had a studio at 150 Tremont St., Boston.

In early life he was an agnostic if not an atheist, but one day dropping into a Methodist prayer meeting he became so impressed with the gospel message that he not only changed his religious views but resolved to enter the ministry, notwithstanding the financial consequences attending the decision.

He was a most enthusiastic and useful pastor particularly in evangelistic work and labored diligently and faithfully in the ministry for twenty-three years (Topsfield being his last charge). Upon retiring from the active ministry he founded churches in West Hampstead and other New Hampshire towns. During the Civil War he was chaplain of the 1st Maine Cavalry.

## REV. GEORGE WESLEY BUZZELL.

The pastor in 1873 and 1874 was the son of Alexander and Nancy (Witherell) Buzzell and was born in a log house in Benton, Maine, the ninth in a family of twelve children. For several years he was a school teacher but in 1870 he entered the Methodist ministry, supplying the towns of Warren and Cushing, Maine. He graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1875 and in 1877 joined the New Hampshire Conference and served a number of charges. But it is as the founder of the Good Will Institute (incorporated in 1904) that Mr. Buzzell is best known to the present generation. In 1898 he entered the City of Nashua, New Hampshire, to undertake mission and institutional work. The great need was not only a call but a pledge of success. In 1912 a new building for its use costing about \$7,000, was dedicated. The work of the Institute has been attended with

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a measure of prosperity far out of proportion to its apparent resources and elements of success.

REV. WILLIAM H. MEREDITH.

The pastor in 1875 and 1876 was born in Bristol, England, March 28, 1844. Upon coming to America in 1870 he accepted a charge in Gorham, New Hampshire. He joined the New England Conference in 1872 and died July 14, 1911, in Saxonville (Framingham), Mass.

He never lost interest in the Wesleyan Church of England which was revived by two or more visits to the old country, his English home having been at Bristol where Rev. John Wesley began his great work. He wrote sketches of English and American Methodist Churches for many magazines and newspapers which were noted for their great excellence. He was recognized as a distinguished historian and an authority in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the library donated to Boston University School of Theology by his family was one of the finest collections of original editions of Wesley's works to be found in this country. Unsought he received two literary degrees. He was a lecturer in Boston University in 1906.

The interest taken in his special services while in Topsfield was most encouraging and he extended the right hand of fellowship to twenty-nine new members during the pastorate.

REV. STEPHEN LOUIS RODGERS.

The pastor in 1877 and 1878 was born in London, England. He came to this country during the Civil War and was pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1871, and subsequently received the appointment as Presiding Elder. He was for a time agent of the Freedman's Aid Society, and in 1874 upon entering the New England Conference expressed a willingness to take any appointment offered. He died on February 29, 1892, while filling a second appointment at Feeding Hills (Agawam), Mass.

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### REV. GEORGE H. CLARKE.

The pastor from 1879 to 1882 was son of John Adams and Dorinda (Scammell) Clarke and was born in Milford, October 29, 1850. He joined the Conference in 1878 and received appointments down to 1913, when he took a supernumerary relation. He has always been prominent in the Conference and has been its treasurer since 1903.

During this the first three year pastorate of the church the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the meeting house (June 14, 1879) and the semi centennial of the organization of the church (commencing October 19, 1880 and continuing for a week) were observed with elaborate and highly attractive programs. His five-minute children's sermons following the morning prayer received much favorable comment. Extensive improvements were made in the vestry and the organ was moved from the gallery to the right of the pulpit in the audience room and 55 books were added to the Sunday school library. He prepared a comprehensive history of the church, a copy of which is entered in the church records and is, so far as known, the earliest permanent record of the important church events now available. Beginning December 14, 1881, Mr. Clarke published "The Topsfield Herald" an eight-page paper which appeared on alternate Fridays until April 7, 1882. Of their children, George C. and Lizzie R. were born in this town. His ministry closed with the church free from debt and with the conviction in the minds of the people that he was modest, not self-assertive and conscientious to the last degree. He is now living in Sudbury, Mass.

### REV. ALBERT CHARLES MANSON.

The pastor in 1882 was born in Limerick, Maine, March 12, 1809 and died January 2, 1886, in Suncook, N. H. He joined the New Hampshire Conference in 1845 and was Presiding Elder of the Claremont District, 1856-1859, and of the Dover District, 1863-1866. He was transferred to the New England Conference in 1872 and located in 1885. He was

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REV. NATHANIEL HARRINGTON MARTIN.

The pastor from 1883 to 1886, was born in Dorchester, N. H., in August, 1827. He was a graduate of the Concord Biblical Institute and in 1855 joined this Conference and continued in the active ministry until 1895. He delivered the Memorial Day address in Topsfield in 1884. He died at Marlboro, June 29, 1908.

He was kindness itself and an admirable pastor, having deepest sympathy with everybody in distress and would do anything in his power to serve another.

REV. JAMES TIPPET DOCKING, PH. D.

The pastor in 1886 was son of Thomas and Mary (Tippet) Docking, and born in Cornwall, England, January 29, 1861. He was a founder of the Epworth League of the Methodist Church and is widely known as an author, editor and lecturer. He was president of Cookman Institute, Jacksonville, Florida, 1904 1909, and since August 17, 1909, has been president of Rust University, Holly Springs, Mississippi.

His pastorate in Topsfield was marked by an awakening of religious interest. At a reception held at the parsonage on May 14, 1887, he was presented with a gold watch by an appreciative people.

REV. PAUL CLARENCE CURNICK.

The pastor in 1887 and 1888 was son of Samuel and Carrie Curnick and was born at Evansville, Indiana. He studied law under private tutors for some time and when about to take the examinations for admission to the bar, decided to enter the ministry. He graduated from the Boston University School of Theology in 1889. He has filled many of the leading pulpits of the Cincinnati Conference, including the celebrated St. Paul's Church of Cincinnati. He is a District

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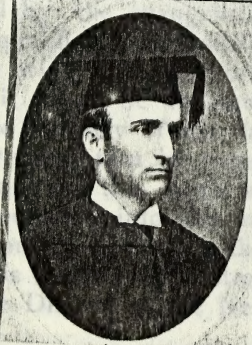
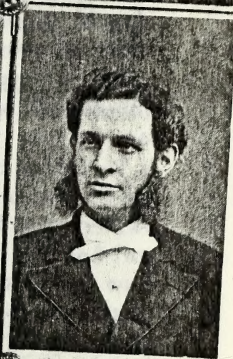
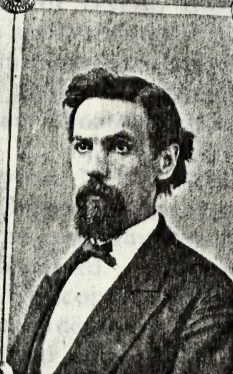
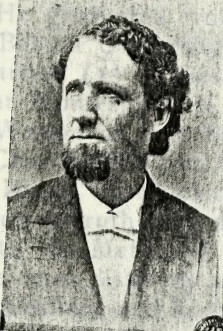
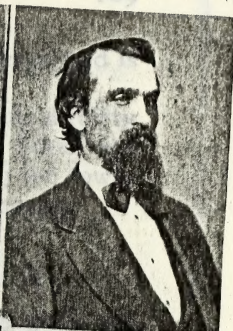
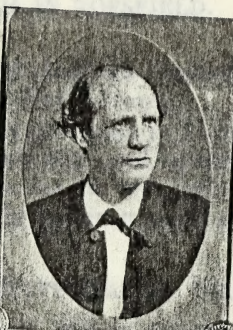
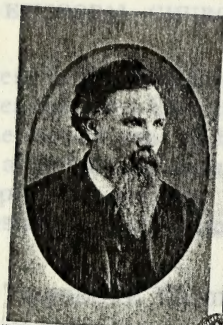
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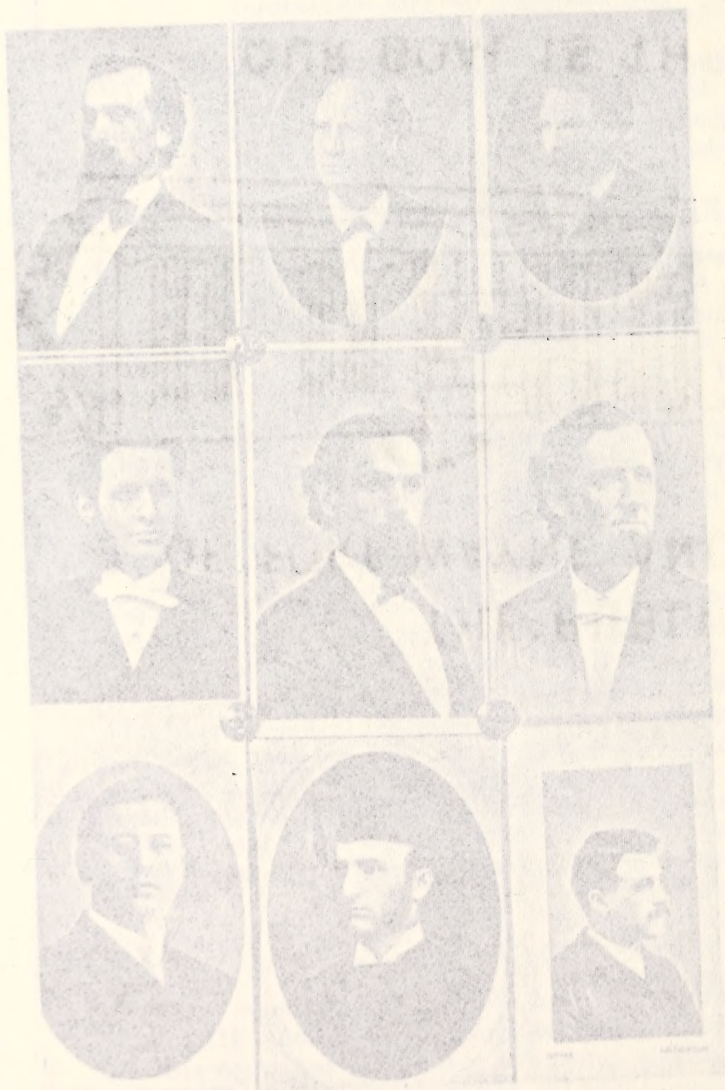
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REV. OTTIS T. MARTIN.

REV. STEPHEN F. CHASE.  
REV. GEO. H. CLARKE.  
REV. PHILLIPP DESCHNER.







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 REV. STEPHEN E. CHASE  
 REV. GEO. H. CLARK  
 REV. WILLIAM DODDING W.

Superintendent in the Northwest Indiana Conference and is stationed over the First Church, Terre Haute.

During the second year of his pastorate in Topsfield thirty names were added to the membership and about \$600 was expended upon the meeting house in rebuilding the tower and spire, installing inside blinds and in general repairs.

#### REV. THEODORE WOODRUFF HAVEN, PH. D.

The pastor in 1889 was son of Bishop Erastus Otis and Mary Frances (Coles) Haven and was born in Malden, March 1, 1862. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1881 and from Boston University School of Theology in 1884. He was married (1) to Susan Choate Gould of Topsfield, who died at Montezuma, N. Y., July 23, 1908; and (2) to Lizzie S. Weston of Port Byron, N. Y. While pastor of a Unitarian Church, Portland, Oregon, he wrote an essay, "The History of Doubt" in which the great doubters of evangelical interpretation of truth were discussed. When he applied for admission to the Methodist Episcopal Conference, he was told that he must distinctly and unequivocally answer certain important questions and first and chiefest was "Do you believe in the supreme Deity of Jesus Christ and in the doctrine of atonement as expressed by the evangelical churches?" "If you can give me an unqualified, yes, I shall be happy to use my utmost influence to bring you back into the church of your father; otherwise it would be absolutely futile for you to attempt to enter the ministry of our church," And the Presiding Elder further states that he never heard from him afterward. Notwithstanding this frank statement Dr. Haven found an abundant entrance into the ministry of the (M. E.) church, but in a Conference outside the jurisdiction of this Presiding Elder. His present appointment is at Patterson, in the Poughkeepsie District of the New York Conference.

#### REV. CHARLES H. FULLER.

The pastor in 1890 and 1891 was son of Frederick J. and Sarah M. (Hall) Fuller and was born August 9, 1863, in

Superintendent in the Northwest Indian Conference and is stationed over the First Church, Teton House.  
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#### REV. CHARLES H. FULLER.

The pastor in 1890 and 1891 was son of Frederick J. and Sarah M. (Hall) Fuller and was born August 9, 1867, in



Quincy. He joined the East Maine Conference in 1887 and continued as a minister and member of the Methodist denomination until 1894 when he withdrew, "owing to what I (he) considered more practical views of the unity of the church." He now resides in West Quincy.

During this pastorate a manual of the church was published.

#### REV. SAMUEL REID.

The pastor from 1892 to Sept., 1893 came from New Harmony, Indiana, to Boston University School of Theology and graduated therefrom in 1894, and upon the termination of this pastorate accepted a call to the Congregational Church at Manchester-by-the-Sea. He is now pastor of a small church in Carlisle, Indiana.

#### REV. JOSEPH SIMPSON.

The pastor from Oct., 1893, to Oct., 1894 was son of Joseph and Jane (Clark) Simpson and was born in Annfield Plain, England, February 12, 1870. He remained in the ministry but a few years and then took up the study of medicine, graduating from Tufts Medical School in 1899. He located in Essex and has built up a large practice. He was the first of a line of Boston University students who have acted as supply-pastors of this church.

#### REV. LEWIS JOHN READER.

The pastor from December, 1894, to April, 1895 was born September 22, 1859, in West Jefferson, Ohio. In 1893 he graduated in the classical course of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio, and in September of the same year he entered Boston University School of Theology and was graduated in 1896. In 1899 he was appointed a teacher in Jquique College, Chile, South America, and shortly after his arrival on the field was named as supply of the English Church and Seamen's Bethel in the Bay of Jquique, and a year later performed the same double service at Concipsion College.

February 25, 1901, at Concipsion College he was married





by Bishop Charles Cardwell McCabe, D. D., LL. D., to Marian A. Milks, who for ten years previous was main room teacher in the Girls' College, Concipsion. In May, 1902, they visited the United States and received appointments from the North Ohio Conference until July, 1904, when they returned to South America and labored among the coal miners of southern Chile for two years. In March, 1907, they were sent to Punta Arenas, and Mr. Reader was placed in charge of the new district of Magallanes—"the mission farthest South of the Methodist Episcopal Church."

During his stay in Topsfield the Church took an added interest in missions and its benevolences were greatly improved. His present post office address is Casilla 250, Punta Arenas, Chile, South America.

#### REV. JOHN BILTON GOUGH.

The pastor from September, 1895, to April, 1896 was born in Summerside, Prince Edward Island, in 1868. About the age of sixteen he became positive in his decision for the Christian life and service and two years later was appointed to a circuit in the New Brunswick Conference. After the usual routine of years in preaching, conference study and attendance at Mt. Allison University, he was ordained as a minister in full connection with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Canada. He was granted leave of Conference for attendance at Boston University School of Theology and was graduated with the class of 1895. He afterwards returned to his Conference in Eastern Canada where he has since been in active ministerial work. He was married in 1898 and has a family of two daughters. Mr. Gough is at present pastor in Jacksonville, N. B., and if he specializes on any work in the church it is with the Sunday School, having been for the past eight years chairman or secretary of the Annual Conference Committee on Sunday Schools, and for the last four years has represented his conference on the General Conference Sunday School and Epworth League Board.

#### REV. I. MURRAY MELLISH.

The pastor from 1896 to 1899 was the second son of James





Lewis and Margaret Sophia (Murray) Mellish and was born at Pownal Bay, Prince Edward Island. He came to Massachusetts in 1873 and for four years was a Sunday School teacher and lay preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1877 he joined the Nova Scotia Conference but returned to Massachusetts in 1893 and founded the Glendale Mission, Everett, and finally established it as a church. During his four-year pastorate at Topsfield he was successful in greatly enlarging the church interests in all departments, and the sum of \$972 (the first subscription was solicited in November, 1898) was expended upon the church building. Upon the re-opening of the church on Sunday, May 21, 1899, the attendance at the three services (the Epworth League conducting the afternoon meeting) was the largest in recent years. Rev. George H. Perkins a favorite son of Topsfield and a convert of the church in 1868, delivered the sermon at the morning service and Mrs. Jeanie McMeekin Mason gave the principal address in the evening. As a pioneer worker Mr. Mellish has an established reputation. He has been much in the lecture field; his subjects including "The Persian Empire" and "The Hand of God in History." Of his five talented daughters, three married Topsfield young men. His present address is Lynnfield Centre, Mass.

#### REV. WILLIAM NESBIT ROBERTS.

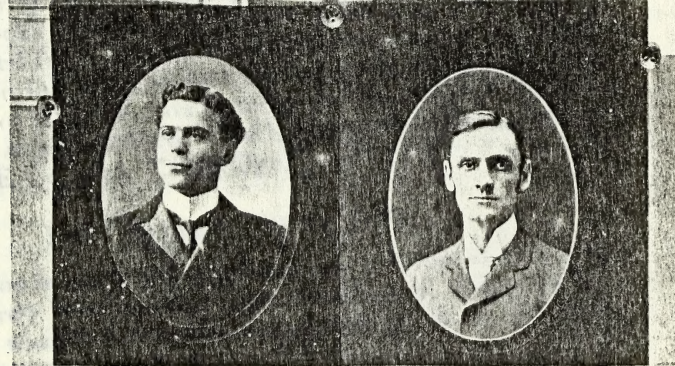
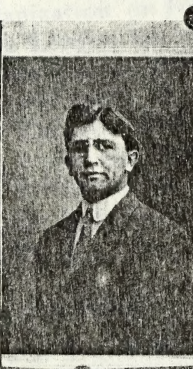
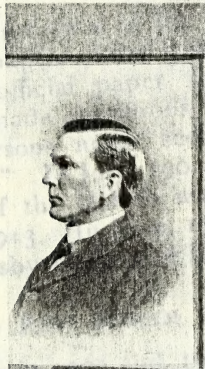
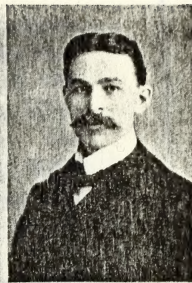
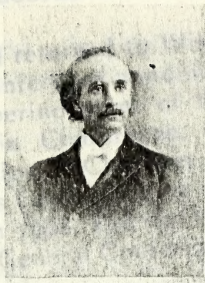
The pastor in 1900 and 1901, was born in Wintersville, Ohio, December 22, 1867 and was graduated from the Boston University School of Theology in 1901. August 2, 1900, he married Elizabeth Welday Warren of Steubenville, Ohio, and they began housekeeping in the parsonage at Topsfield. Since 1902 he has served charges in the Central Ohio Conference.

#### REV. EDWIN CHURCH DIXON.

The pastor in 1902 was born at Kilbourn, Wisconsin, February 6, 1868. He was graduated from Lawrence College, Appleton, Wis., in 1888, and from Boston University School of Theology in 1893. In the fall of 1901 he entered Boston University for post-graduate work in philosophy with







REV. I. MURRAY MELLISH. REV. WM. H. MCLEAN. REV. WM. N. ROBERTS.  
REV. GEO. W. BUZZELL. REV. JOHN G. BENSON. REV. GEO. M. BOICOURT.  
REV. H. WILLIAM HOOK. REV. EDWIN C. DIXON.



REV. J. MURRAY MELISH   REV. WM. H. MCLEAN   REV. WM. H. ROBERTS  
 REV. GEO. W. RUSSELL   REV. JOHN C. BENSON   REV. GEO. M. BOSCOURT  
 REV. EDWIN C. BIXLER   REV. H. WILLIAM HOOK



Dr. Bowne. and returned to Wisconsin in April, 1903 where he accepted Conference appointments till 1909, when he was appointed Superintendent of the Madison District of the West Wisconsin Conference. He is secretary of the Wisconsin Federation of Churches and Christian Workers. He represented his Conference at the General Conference held in Baltimore in 1908, and was elected at the head of his delegation to the General Conference held at Minneapolis, Minn., in 1912.

He was instrumental in the organization on June 2, 1902, of the local chapter of the Epworth League No. 18,189.

From an official paper we take the following: "The pastor has made numerous pastoral calls, largely at the homes of persons never seen at Church either before or after the call." In July, 1902, an organ was installed in the auditorium of the church which continued in service until December, 1913. In June, 1914, the instrument was sold to Kenneth Crosby DeLara of Danvers.

#### REV. HIRAM WILLIAM HOOK.

The pastor in 1903 and 1904 was son of William H. and Mary (Kellock) Hook and was born in Barclay, Pa., in 1875, and graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1904. During his pastorate the vestry was remodeled at an expense of \$350, and on October 20, 1904, the Daughters of Industry was organized. He is the present pastor of the Grace (M. E.) church, Cambridge.

#### REV. HERBERT SMITH DOW.

The pastor in 1905 and 1906 was son of Smith G. and Ann C. (Beckford) Dow and was born in Milford, February 18, 1866. He was for some years engaged in Y. M. C. A. work, acting as assistant secretary in Boston, and as secretary at Newton, Mass., and at Wilmington, Delaware. "He is an earnest and faithful minister of the gospel and has been very successful in bringing back the spiritual tone of his charges."

His pastorate may well be remembered in Topsfield for the organization of the "Home Department" of the Sunday School and for the many attractive and popular "people's





services" held. In July, 1913, he exchanged Conference appointments with Rev. I. F. Lusk of Gardiner, Maine.

#### REV. JOHN GEORGE BENSON.

The pastor from 1907 to July 15, 1909 was son of Ephraim B. and Amy Jane Benson and was born in Richmond, Indiana, February 1, 1881, and was graduated from De Pauw University in 1906 and from the Boston University School of Theology in 1909. While leader of this church he showed an extraordinary knowledge of human nature and spoke his mind fully with a cheerful disregard of anybody's feelings and never failed of an attentive congregation. His methods were unique. He is now located in Brazil, Indiana.

#### REV. OTTIS TEVIS MARTIN.

The pastor from August, 1909, to April 10, 1911 was son of Ralph and Emeline (Tevis) Martin, and was born July 3, 1880, at Adams, Indiana. His education was obtained at McCordsville High School, the State Normal School at Terre Haute and De Pauw University, and his professional course was taken at Boston University School of Theology (two years) and Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Illinois, graduating from the latter institution in 1913. He was licensed to preach by the N. W. Nebraska Conference, September 22, 1906, and his first pastorate was at Crawford, Neb. In the fall of 1907 he returned to Indiana and was assigned by the N. W. Indiana Conference to Yountsville and to Waynetown in 1908.

At his farewell reception in Topsfield, held April 6, 1911, people of all creeds and of no creed were present to honor the efficient pastor, and he was presented with a purse of upwards of \$30. March 3, 1911, Margaret Naomi Martin was born at the parsonage. In April, 1911, he accepted an assignment to Mentone, Indiana, his present charge.

#### REV. WILLIAM HENRY MCLEAN.

The pastor from April 16, to September, 1911, was son of James C. and Anna M. (Downs) McLean, and was born in





Paris, Illinois, and was graduated from De Pauw University. He had a pleasing personality, was strong in argument, was a forceful speaker and a man of great promise. He graduated from the Boston University School of Theology in 1914, and is pastor of the Highland (M. E.) Church, Lowell.

#### REV. WILLIAM RALPH WARD.

The pastor from October, 1911, to March 18, 1912, was son of William P. and Mary M. (Winborough) Ward and was born in Moundville, Missouri, January 9, 1884, and was graduated from Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, 1906, and from Boston University School of Theology, 1912. During the year 1906 1907 he taught a Mission School in Pachucha, Mexico. In 1908 and 1909 he was pastor of the Congregational Church, Franci-town, N. H., and principal of the High School, Plainville, Mass., in 1910 and a portion of 1911. Throughout his pastorate in Topsfield special stress was laid upon the Sunday School interests.

#### REV. GEORGE MALLALIEU BOICOURT.

The pastor from March 23, 1912, to March 23, 1914, was a son of Rev. James and Sarah (Smith) Boicourt, and was born at Gaylord, Kansas, May 5, 1884. He was graduated from Baker University, Baldwin, Kansas, and Boston University School of Theology (1914). He was a deeper thinker and stronger preacher than many of his predecessors and his statement of the fundamental principles of religion awakened considerable interest. The material blessings of this pastorate included the installation of a new Estey organ which was fully paid for in a ten days' campaign. The instrument was dedicated December 14, 1913. Frank W. Ward acting for the organ committee and Horace Ray representing the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Boicourt's present field of labor is Pleasanton, Kansas.

#### REV. PHILLIPP DESCHNER.

The present pastor is the third child of Phillipp and Eva (Hall) Deschner and was born at Mramarack, Hungary,



April 18, 1885. In 1894 the family emigrated to America and settled in Texas. While a student in Blinn Memorial College, Brenham, Texas, he was appointed a Conference missionary and traveled throughout the state establishing churches. In 1909 he attended Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton, Mo., and during the first two years of the course he served a charge and the third year was elected captain of the first gospel team of the college (under the supervision of the Y. M. C. A.). He graduated in the philosophical course in 1912, and in the fall of the same year entered the Boston University School of Theology. He was appointed pastor of this church in April, 1914.

## SAMUEL SEWALL'S DIARY.

### EXTRACTS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD, MASS.

The Sewall diary is printed in the Historical Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, 5th series, vols. V, VI, VII. In a letter to his son, written in 1720. Judge Sewall writes:—"My Father sent for my Mother to come to him in New England. . . . Went by water to Graves End where the Ship lay, the Prudent Mary, Capt. Isaac Woodgreen, Commander. . . . Passengers in the Ship at the same time were . . . Mr. Gilbert and his wife. He was Minister at Topsfield".

"Aug. 5, 1686. . . . One Jn<sup>o</sup> Gold, Chief Commander of the Military Company at Top-field, is sent to Prison for Treasonable words spoken about the change of Government, is to be tryed this day fortnight. Council said he was not bailable."

"May 23, 1707. . . . "Ride to Topsfield [from By-field], to visit Mr. Capen who is very glad to see me."

It also should also be remembered that Judge Sewall was one of the judges who presided at the witchcraft trials in 1692 which resulted in the execution of several women of Topsfield residence or ancestry.





MARRIAGES.

1912.  
Feb. 12. { Fred A. Greenwood (Topsfield), son of Orville K. and Cora L. (Prescott) Greenwood.  
Ida G. Towne (Topsfield), dau. of Frank H. and Mary B. (Richardson) Towne.  
James F. Morison (Topsfield), son of James and Nellie A. (Richardson) Towne.  
May. 24. { Harry T. Towne (Topsfield), son of Harry T. and Ellen Florence H. Towne (Topsfield), dau. of Frank and Ada M. (Porter) Towne.  
Aug. 28. { Roy Edmund Elbridge, son of Donald and Annie (Reed) Elbridge.  
Katie G. Scott (Topsfield), dau. of James and Catherine (Wright) Scott.

VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1913.

BIRTHS.

1912.  
Feb. 26. Daniel Francis, son of Daniel O. and Mary A. (Regan) Peterson.  
March 13. Spencer Linwood, son of Ralph E. and Inez (Wheeler) Newell.  
Sept. 6. Charles Samuel, son of Charles S. and Charlotte L. (Ahrenhold) Smith.  
1913.  
Jan. 4. Barbara Kingsbury, dau. of Franklin and Helen King (Smith) Balch.  
Jan. 4. Luigi, son of Antonio and Philomena Santo (Nicola) Scoglio.  
Jan. 30. Catherine Frances, dau. of Manuel F. and Josephine (McDougall) Castle.  
Feb. 2. John Wentworth, son of Thomas W. and Gabriella M. (Dexter) Peirce.  
Feb. 12. Evelyn Margaret, dau. of Harland S. and Maud (Fuller) Pierce.  
Mar. 5. Joseph, son of Thomas and Mary A. (Spiritaliozzi) Longo.  
Mar. 29. Mary, dau. of Michael E. and Delia A. (Garrity) McGauley.  
April 3. Antonio, son of Alphonse and Aralzia (Paglia) Roberto.  
April 16. Perley, son of Isaiah A. and Emma E. (Neves) Swindell.  
May 18. Mary Havey, dau. of Ralph and Agnes (Havey) Thomas.  
May 21. Oliver Alden, son of Oliver and Susie May (Alden) Thayer.  
May 25. — son of Eben A. and Eva O. (Harris) Peabody.  
Aug. 14. Ruth Viola, dau. of Wesley F. and Alice L. (Mitton) Ewell.  
Aug. 23. Mary Joselyn, dau. of Ernest H. and Marion W. (Peirce) Pentecost.  
Sept. 9. Joseph and Florence (twins) of Thomas A. and Annie V. (O'Donnell) Pierce.  
Oct. 16. William Francis, son of James F. and Annie T. (McGoff) McGregor.  
Dec. 3. Frank Orville, son of Fred A. and Ida G. (Towne) Greenwood.  
Dec. 11. Joseph Walker, son of John and Margaret (McLellan) McQuade.  
Dec. 11. Winfield Horace, son of Harry W. and Elsie (Tarbox) Perkins.





## MARRIAGES.

1912.		
Feb.	12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fred A. Greenwood, (Topsfield), son of Orville S. and Cora L. (Prescott) Greenwood.</li> <li>Ida G. Towne (Topsfield), dau. of Frank H. and Mary B. (Richardson) Towne.</li> </ul>
Feb.	12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>James F. Morissey (Topsfield), son of James and Nellie A. (Thomas) Morissey.</li> <li>Mildred E. Towne (Topsfield), dau. of Frank H. and Mary B. (Richardson) Towne.</li> </ul>
May.	24.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harry T. Fletcher, Jr., (Topsfield), son of Harry T. and Elizabeth B. (Howe), Fletcher.</li> <li>Florence H. Titus (Topsfield), dau. of Frank and Ada M. (Porter), Titus.</li> </ul>
Aug.	28.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Roy Ethridge (Topsfield), son of Donald and Annie (Ross) Ethridge.</li> <li>Katie G. Scott (Topsfield), dau. of James and Catherine (Waugh) Scott.</li> </ul>
Oct.	12.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Raymond S. Roberts (Topsfield), son of Henry H. and Catherine J. (Chisholm) Roberts.</li> <li>Maude A. Robinson (Topsfield), dau. of Charles G. and Annie H. (Heath) Robinson.</li> </ul>
Oct.	15.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arthur A. Spaulding (Topsfield), son of William W. and Sarah E. (Hitchings) Spaulding.</li> <li>Ethel H. Buck (Boxford), dau. of Robert W. and Edith L. (Phillips) Buck.</li> </ul>
Nov.	27.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arthur L. Bartlett (Lynn), son of Fred and Georgia (Arris) Bartlett.</li> <li>Wenona S. Philbrick (Lynn), dau. of Fred E. and Evie J. (Spaulding) Philbrick.</li> </ul>
Dec.	23.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leo V. Harris (Durham, N. H.), son of John O. and Sally (Hall) Harris.</li> <li>Mary Pingree (Topsfield), dau. of William H. L. and Margaret (Bryant) Pingree.</li> </ul>

## DEATHS.

1913.		
Feb.	2.	Elizabeth G., widow of Charles Winslow and dau. of Zacheus and Ann (Hood) Gould, aged 80 yrs., 6 mos., 25 days.
—		Edward C. Roaf, unknown, drowned in Ipswich River, aged about 55 yrs.
April	16.	Roderick B., son of Isaac B. and A. Maria (Manning) Young, aged 50 yrs., 7 mos., 8 dys.
May	16.	Annie R., wife of Charles J. Peabody and dau. of Richard and Mary (Jacobs) Smith, aged 70 yrs., 2 mos., 15 dys.
June	10.	Walter G., son of Calvin L., and Elizabeth P. (Pierce) Smith, aged 57 yrs., 8 mos., 5 dys.





- uly 15. John H., son of Benjamin B. and Esther (Peabody) Towne, aged 72 yrs., 5 mos., 13 dys.
- uly 19. Alford W., son of James C. and Agnes (Medlicott) Cooley, aged 40 yrs., 3 mos., 10 dys.
- uly 25. Alden, son of Eben A. and Eva O. (Harris) Peabody.
- uly 28. Mary B., wife of James Walsh and dau. of Thomas and Mary (Murher) Brennock, aged 50 yrs.
- Aug. 2. Edward E., son of William and Hannah (Smith) Gunnison, aged 76 yrs., 3 mos., 26 dys.
- Aug. 6. Mehitable, dau. of Samuel C. and Lydia (Gould) Todd, aged 85 yrs., 5 mos., 19 dys.
- Aug. 7. Mary C., wife of Albert A. Conant and dau. of Albert G., and Sarah E. (Cutts) Lane, aged 77 yrs., 5 mos., 17 dys.
- Aug. 31. Hannah F., widow of James Cass and dau. of Burton and Hannah (Lake) Tyler, aged 62 yrs., 4 mos., 14 dys.
- Sept. 3. Edwin S., son of Samuel and Rachel (Averill) Clifford, aged 74 yrs. 4 mos., 14 dys.
- Sept. 27. Sarah E., wife of Horace Ray and dau. of Sewell and Mary (Severence) Towne, aged 61 yrs., 8 mos., 29 dys.
- Oct. 2. Joseph, son of Thomas A. and Annie V. (O'Donnell) Pierce, aged 24 dys.
- Oct. 16. Augustus W., son of Willard and Mary (Gould) Smith aged 84 yrs. 8 mos., 11 dys.
- Oct. 17. William F., son of Frank and Annie (McGoff) McGregor, aged 1 dy.
- Oct. 29. Mary Elizabeth, widow of Henry R White and dau. of Sidney and Mary (Saunders) Saunders, aged 82 yrs., 5 mos., 2 dys.
- Nov. 15. Daniel F., son of Daniel and Fannie (Small) Towne, aged 78 yrs. 3dys
- Dec. 1. Charles Carmody, son of John and Mary Cammardy, aged 73 yrs.

### Deaths in other places, interment in Topsfield.

- 1913.
- Jan. 31. Ella E. Benton, died in Ipswich, Mass., aged 57 yrs, 11 mos., 19 dys.
- Feb. 23. Alexander W. Carter, died in Boxford, Mass., aged 45 yrs., 3 mos., 3 dys.
- Mar. 9. Mary L. Towne, died Beverly, Mass., aged 70 yrs., 7 mos., 27 dys.
- uly 24. Edward H Perkins, died in Newburyport, Mass., aged 54 yrs., 9 mos., 19 dys.
- Aug. 5. Annie E. Munsey, died in Montclair, N. J., aged 31 yrs. 7 mos., 21 dys.
- Aug. 26. Daniel G. Chapman, died in Amesbury, Mass., aged 82 yrs., 4 mos., 12 dys.
- Sept. 5. Dorothy Lord, died in Haverhill, Mass., aged 10 mos.
- Sept. 27. Sarah E. Ray, died in Salem, Mass., aged 61 yrs., 8 mos, 29 dys.
- Sept. 30. Lester H. Fuller, died in Georgetown, Mass., aged 5 mos., 8 dys.
- Oct. 9. Son of Harold Taylor, died in Beverly, Mass., aged 3 dys.



uly	12	John H., son of Benjamin B. and Esther (Pembrey) Towne, aged 73 yrs., 2 mos., 17 dys.
uly	19	Alfred W., son of James C. and Agnes (Medlicott) Cooley, aged 40 yrs., 2 mos., 10 dys.
uly	22	Alben, son of Eben A. and Eva O. (Harris) Pembrey.
uly	26	Mary B., wife of James Walsh and dau. of Thomas and Mary (Meredith) Hemenock, aged 20 yrs.
Aug.	2	Edward E., son of William and Hannah (Smith) Gusselson, aged 76 yrs., 2 mos., 26 dys.
Aug.	6	Michael, dau. of Samuel C. and Lydia (Gould) Todd, aged 82 yrs., 2 mos., 19 dys.
Aug.	7	Mary C., wife of Albert A. Gossard and dau. of Albert C., and Sarah E. (Cotton) Lane, aged 77 yrs., 2 mos., 17 dys.
Aug.	21	Hannah F., widow of James Cox and dau. of Burton and Hannah (Lake) Tyler, aged 63 yrs., 4 mos., 14 dys.
Sept.	3	Edwin S., son of Samuel and Rachel (Averill) Clifford, aged 74 yrs., 4 mos., 14 dys.
Sept.	27	Sarah E., wife of Horace May and dau. of Sewell and Mary (Severance) Towne, aged 61 yrs., 8 mos., 20 dys.
Oct.	2	Joseph, son of Thomas A. and Annie V. (O'Donnell) Poirer, aged 24 dys.
Oct.	16	Augustus W., son of Willard and Mary (Gould) Smith, aged 84 yrs., 8 mos., 11 dys.
Oct.	17	William F., son of Frank and Annie (McGoff) McGregor, aged 1 dy.
Oct.	20	Mary Elizabeth, widow of Henry R. White and dau. of Sidney and Mary (Sanderford) Sanderford, aged 82 yrs., 2 mos., 2 dys.
Nov.	12	Daniel F., son of Daniel and Fannie (Smith) Towne, aged 78 yrs., 5 dys.
Dec.	1	Charles Curnedy, son of John and Mary Cummings, aged 77 yrs.

## Deaths in other places, interment in Topsfield.

Jan.	31	Ella E. Benton, died in Ipswich, Mass., aged 57 yrs., 11 mos., 19 dys.
Feb.	27	Alexander W. Carter, died in Hoxford, Mass., aged 42 yrs., 2 mos., 2 dys.
Mar.	9	Mary L. Towne, died Beverly, Mass., aged 70 yrs., 7 mos., 27 dys.
Apr.	24	Edward H. Perkins, died in Newburyport, Mass., aged 54 yrs., 2 mos., 19 dys.
Aug.	2	Annie E. Alunsky, died in Montclair, N. J., aged 51 yrs., 7 mos., 21 dys.
Aug.	26	Daniel G. Chapman, died in Amesbury, Mass., aged 82 yrs., 2 mos., 12 dys.
Sept.	2	Dorothy Ford, died in Haverhill, Mass., aged 10 mos.
Sept.	27	Sarah E. Ray, died in Salem, Mass., aged 61 yrs., 20 dys.
Sept.	30	Lester H. Miller, died in Georgetown, Mass., aged 2 mos., 8 dys.
Oct.	9	Son of Michael Taylor, died in Beverly, Mass., aged 1 dy.

## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1913.

1913.	
January.	The Town buys land adjoining the Common as a site for a Public Library building.
January 16.	Shop of the Union Metallic Paint Co. (off West street) destroyed by fire.
March 22.	Fire caused by sparks from a locomotive burned over about eight acres of the Hutching's field and the Village narrowly escaped destruction.
May.	Rev. B. Alfred Dumm resigned as pastor of the Congregational Church.
June 25.	The 250th Anniversary of the Congregational Church observed.
August.	Harold Moffitt elected principal of the High School.
September 16-17	Annual cattle show of the Essex Agricultural Society.
November 4.	Henry F. Long of Topsfield elected representative to the General Court from the 24th Essex District.

## BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1913

Topsfield Historical Society, Howlett St.; Parson Capen House restored.  
 Topsfield Grange, P. of H., Main St.; Herrick's large shoe shop remodelled into a Hall with offices and Club Room on the first floor.  
 Mrs. F. P. Smerage, Main St.; Herrick's small shoe shop remodelled into a Hall for the Girls' Friendly Club with shop on first floor.  
 C. V. Jackman, Boston St.; cottage house occupied by Italians.  
 Andrew L. Peirce, off Central St.; pump house.  
 George L. Gould, Washington St.; garage.  
 Herbert F. Walker, High St.; gardener's house.  
 Harris E. Perkins, Central St.; barn.  
 George H. Shattuck, Wenham St.; carpenters' shop.  
 George A. Frame, off Haverhill St.; cottage.  
 William Winchester, off Haverhill St.; cottage.  
 T. Jesse Fuller, Washington St.; garage.  
 Horace D. Bradstreet, Washington St.; addition to house.  
 John S. Lawrence, North St.; coachman's house.

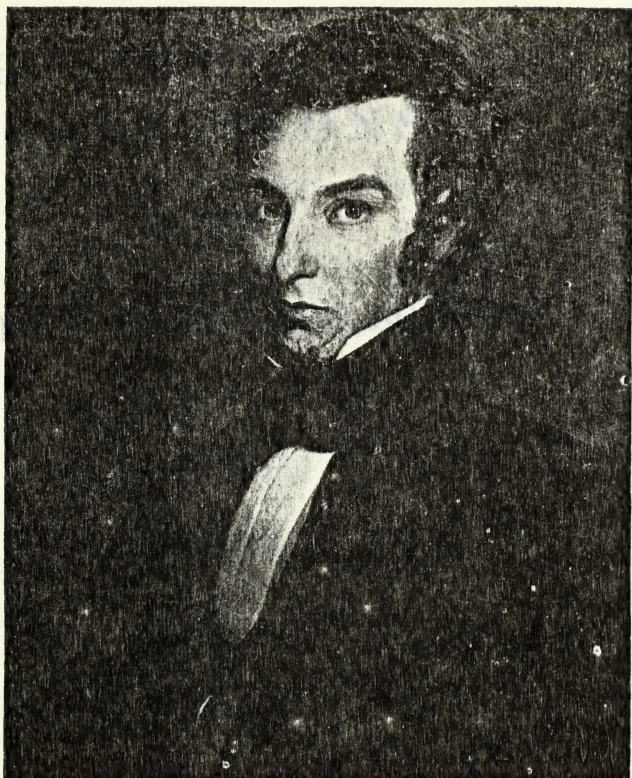
## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1913

January 1	1913	The Town buys land adjoining the Common as a site for a Public Library building.
January 16		Shop of the Union Machine Paint Co. (off West street) destroyed by fire.
March 22		Fire caused by sparks from a locomotive burned over about eight acres of the Hatching's field and the Village cemetery. It escaped destruction.
May		Rev. H. Alfred Brown resigned as pastor of the Congregational Church.
June 25		The 25th Anniversary of the Congregational Church observed.
August		Harold Mottin elected principal of the High School.
September 16-17		Annual cattle show of the Essex Agricultural Society.
November 4		Henry E. Hoag of Topsfield elected representative to the Essex Court from the 24th Essex District.

## BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1913

Topsfield Historical Society, Hawtitt St.; Town Capen House restored.  
 Topsfield Garage, P. of H., Main St.; Hatching's large shoe shop remodelled into a Hall with offices and Club Room on the first floor.  
 Mrs. F. P. Smearage, Main St.; Hatching's small shoe shop remodelled into a Hall for the Girls' Friendly Club with shop on first floor.  
 C. V. Jackson, Boston St.; cottage house occupied by Italian.  
 Andrew F. Prince, off Central St.; pump house.  
 George L. Gould, Washington St.; garage.  
 Herbert F. Walker, High St.; carpenter's house.  
 Harry E. Perkins, Central St.; barn.  
 George H. Shattuck, Webster St.; carpenter's shop.  
 George A. Frame, off Hawtitt St.; cottage.  
 William Winchester, off Hawtitt St.; cottage.  
 Jesse Fuller, Washington St.; garage.  
 James B. Bradstreet, Washington St.; addition to house.  
 J. S. Lawrence, Washington St.; addition to house.





REV. DAVID PEABODY 1805-1839.

From the portrait in possession of Charles J. Peabody.

TOPSFIELD, MASS.

Published by the Society

1915



REV. DAVID PEABODY 1805-1833  
From the portrait in possession of Charles J. Peabody

THE  
HISTORICAL  
COLLECTIONS  
OF THE  
TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW

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VOL. XX

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1915

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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30 vols (30 vols)  
40.00



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE SECRETARY OF THE

### TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1914.

The occupancy of the Parson Capen House by the Society, the building of a commodious wood and storage shed in the rear of the house, and the selection of a custodian have been the chief events in the life of the Society during the past year. The "house warming" which took place Jan. 16, 1914, was a great success. About 130 persons enjoyed the old fashioned supper which was served in the 17th century manner. Members from Danvers, Salem and Boston were present and several from as far away as Connecticut. President Bolten and Secretary Appleton of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities were also present and at the annual meeting held after the supper, they united in praising the architectural features of the new home of the Society and expressing satisfaction at the picturesque and gastronomic features of the old-time supper. The low studded rooms with their heavy timbers over which flickered the firelight and the gleam from the candles in sconces around the walls gave a romantic touch to the gathering and aroused a desire that all present might have been clothed in the dress of the ancient time—the time of Parson Capen.

From time to time during the past year evidence has accumulated showing that the claims made in the last annual report that our house possesses many unique features, are well founded. A writer upon architectural subjects, living near New York city, has made careful measured drawings of the house which are to be used to illustrate an article on the building. Meetings have been held here by the Bay State Historical League, the Lynn Historical Society and a section



# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE TOPSFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1914.

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of the Appalachian Mountain Club, and in this connection it is suggested that an effort might be made to bring the house and its facilities for a place of meeting to the attention of Historical and Patriotic Societies, Women's Clubs, etc. that might vary their programs by meeting here, thereby adding something to our treasury and also bringing people to view the natural attractions of our town. The house also was utilized as a place of meeting by ladies interested in furnishing clothing and supplies to war sufferers in Belgium and France.

Your directors have been extremely fortunate in securing Mr. Henry B. Sheahan, an instructor at Harvard University, to occupy the second floor of the Capen House and serve as its custodian. The present situation seems to be nearly ideal. Mr. Sheahan has rendered his occupancy more comfortable by making at his own expense various desirable improvements. The water supply from the old well having proved insufficient your directors propose driving a new well and connecting the same with the house as soon as weather conditions permit.

In the wood shed recently erected, space has been reserved for the storage of objects belonging to the Society. But we must not lose sight of the desirability—yes, necessity, for a fire-proof addition to the rear of our House in which to preserve and build up a museum illustrating the growth and cultivation of Topsfield and its citizens and for this purpose we should economize our expenditures and invite donations. All over this broad land are scattered buildings having a public utility and which have been erected in memory of the name and fame of former citizens. No more suitable and practical or more lasting memorial can be devised; and for less than two thousand dollars a fire proof structure could be erected and placed in our custody, forever having linked with it the name of some Topsfield family or individual of Topsfield birth.

Miss Clara A. Avery of Detroit, Michigan, has given ten dollars towards the development of an old-time flower garden and there is a probability that further donations for this purpose may follow.

No meeting of the Society was held in March because of a severe storm but in May a meeting was held in the Methodist

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Church at which Mr. Leone P. Welch read a paper on "The Ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Topsfield," which was illustrated by radioptican showing portraits of many of the ministers and early views of meeting house.

At the November meeting, which was held in the Capen House, the Secretary spoke informally on "Parson Capen and ye house in which he dwelt."

The present membership is 267, thirty-eight new members having been elected during the past year; two resigned and four members died: Edwin K. Foster, Miss Esther M. Gould, Alphonso T. Merrill and Mrs. Mary L. Perkins. Volume 18 of the Historical Collections has been completed and distributed and volume 19 is nearly ready to send to the binder.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Secretary.

Dec. 31. Binding, Vol. 18,	
" Printing, Vol. 18,	
" Binding, Vol. 18,	
" Printing, Vol. 19, on account,	
" Engraving, Vol. 19,	
" J. L. Ward, interest on loan,	
" Pasteboard,	
" Postage and misc. printing,	
Balance	
	\$279 63
Jan. 1, 1915, Balance cash on hand,	\$25 40

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,  
WILLIAM C. LONG,

Auditors.

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Secretary.

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TREASURER

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 1914

## RECEIPTS

1914

Jan. 12.	Balance cash on hand,		\$106 13
Dec. 31.	Received from annual dues,	\$131 50	
July	" " " Hist. Colls. sold,	4 50	
Oct.	" " " binding,	37 50	173 50
Dec. 1.	Rent 1 month		
Dec. 11.	Loan from James L. Ward,		
			<u>\$279 63</u>

## PAYMENTS

Dec. 31.	Binding, Vol. 17,	\$33 81	
"	Printing, Vol. 18,	109 68	
"	Binding, Vol. 18,	29 83	
"	Printing, Vol. 19. on account,	50 00	
"	Engraving, Vol. 19,	12 75	
"	J. L. Ward, interest on loan,	4 50	
"	Pasteboard,	4 00	
"	Postage and misc. printing,	9 66	\$254 23
			<u>25 40</u>
	Balance		<u>\$279 63</u>

Jan. 1, 1915, Balance cash on hand, \$25 40

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,

WILLIAM C. LONG,

Auditors.





## BUILDING FUND

## RECEIPTS

1914

Feb. 24.	Loan from James L. Ward,	\$900 00	
Mar. 30.	Loan from James L. Ward,	1400 00	
Apr. 24.	Dividend from U. S. Mach. Co.	18 50	
July 6.	" "	18 50	
Oct. 5.	" "	18 50	
Dec. 1.	Rent 1 month,	10 00	
Dec. 11.	Loan from James L. Ward,	340 00	\$2705 50

1914

Feb. 24.	Transferred to Restoration Acct.	\$900 00	
Mar. 30.	Paid loan, Naumkeag Trust Co.	500 00	
"	Paid loan, James L. Ward,	900 00	
Sept. 30.	Interest on Ward note (\$1400. at 5 %)	35 00	
Dec. 11.	J. H. Welch, building wood shed, etc.	297 40	
"	F. W. Ward, insurance,	23 34	
"	Transferred to Restoration acct.	42 14	\$2697 88
	Balance cash on hand		<u>\$7 62</u>

1915

Jan. 1.	On hand in Building Fund, 37 shares U. S. Mach. Co. stock, value 54,	\$1998 00	
	Held as collateral for outstanding loans, viz		
	James L. Ward note,	\$1400 00	
	James L. Ward note,	340 00	1740.00
	Present value of Fund		<u>\$258 00</u>

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,

Treasurer.

Approved,

ALBERT M. DODGE,

WILLIAM C. LONG,

Auditors.





# CAPEN HOUSE RESTORATION AND FURNISHING ACCOUNT.

## RECEIPTS

1913		
Sept. 9.	Donation from a "Friend",	\$1100 00
" 27.	Residue Cummings est. trans. from Building Fund,	88 00
Dec. 8.	Withdrew deposit at Salem Savings Bank,	128 59
1914		
Jan. 14.	Dividend U. S. Mach. Co.,	18 50
Feb. 24.	Int. on deposits Naumkeag Trust Co.,	1 42
"	Loan from Jas. L. Ward at 5%,	900 00
"	Gift David Pingree,	100 00
"	Gift Arthur H. Wellman,	22 24
"	Gift Stephen W. Phillips,	15 00
Mar. 2.	Gift George L. Gould,	32 82
Apr. 2.	Gift Frank W. Ward,	12 51
Dec. 12.	Trans. from Building Fund,	42 14 \$2461 22

## PAYMENTS

1913		
Sept.	M. W. Smerage, team and man, grading,	\$87 92
"	W. H. Herlihy, removing paint, whitewash, etc.	97 40
"	A. L. Hodgdon, digging cesspool, trench, and cleaning up,	41 56
"	A. L. Hodgdon and E. M. Dow, taking down plastering, etc,	7 82
Oct. 25.	Spence, Bell and Co. 21 leaded casement windows,	94 00
Nov. 4.	Kimball and Co., 21 casement sash,	26 25
" 29.	Morrison and Young, 21 win- dow frames and labor,	87 80
"	Morrison and Young, pine, wainscotting,	62 83
Nov. 29.	Chester Killam, express from Salem,	2 00

CAPEN HOUSE RESTORATION AND  
FURNISHING ACCOUNT.

## RECEIPTS

1913	Sept. 9. Donation from a "Friend."	\$1100 00
" 25.	Residue Cambridge est. trans.	83 00
Dec. 3.	Withdraw deposit at Salem Savings Bank.	128 50
1914	Jan. 14. Dividend U. S. Mch. Co.	18 50
Feb. 24.	Int. on deposits Nantucket Trust Co.	1 45
" "	Loan from Jas. L. Ward at 2%.	900 00
" "	Gift David Frazier.	100 00
" "	Gift Arthur H. Wellman.	32 24
" "	Gift Stephen W. Phillips.	12 00
Mar. 2.	Gift George L. Gould.	32 82
Apr. 2.	Gift Frank W. Ward.	12 51
Dec. 12.	Trans. from Building Fund.	42 14 \$2461 22

## PAYMENTS

1913	Sept. M. W. Smearage, team and man, grading.	\$87 02
" "	W. H. Herlihy, removing paint, whitewash, etc.	97 40
" "	A. L. Hodgdon, digging cesspool, trench, and cleaning up.	41 50
" "	A. L. Hodgdon and E. M. Dow, taking down plastering, etc.	7 82
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Nov. 4.	Kimball and Co., 21 casement sash.	26 25
" 29.	Morrison and Young, 21 window frames and labor.	87 80
" "	Morrison and Young, pine, wainscoting.	62 83
Nov. 29.	Chester Kilham, express from Salem.	2 00

Nov. 29.	Elwood Noyes, pump,	7 00	
Dec. 8.	G. H. Williams, mason work, chimney and fireplaces,	118 56	
"	Charles W. Andrews, painting, paper-hanging, etc.,	59 00	
1914			
Jan. 17.	O. S. Greenwood, well, sink, and piping,	39 69	
"	E. B. Woodbury, lime, cement, and tile pipe,	20 00	
Feb. 24.	H. R. Wildes, carpenter work and lumber,	1099 76	
"	Kimball and Co. reproducing furniture,	252 03	
"	N. E. Reed Co. reseating chairs,	6 00	
"	F. W. Dingle, ironwork,	67 83	
	George F. Dow, misc. payments, acct. hardware, kitchen uten- sels, window curtains, open- ing supper, etc.	75 04	
Feb. 25.	E. B. Woodbury and Co. $\frac{1}{2}$ cord wood,	3 00	
"	Bixby and Co. wall-paper and moulding,	22 10	
Feb. 26.	C. P. Poor and Co. paint, oil, etc.	32 26	
"	A. C. Titus and Co. 36 folding chairs	30 00	
"	" trucking same and furniture	8 00	
Apr. 6.	W. A. Webb, plastering, building cesspool, etc.	88 73	
May 5.	M. B. Paige and Co. pottery reproductions,	17 15	
"	Spence, Bell and Co. repairing lead glass,	4 77	
Aug. 18.	" "	2 62	\$2461 12
	Balance cash on hand		10
	Respectfully submitted,		
	GEORGE FRANCIS DOW,		
Approved,			Treasurer.
	WILLIAM C. LONG,		
	ALBERT M. DODGE,		
	Auditors.		





## NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

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(Continued from Vol. XVIII, page 119.)

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### BIBLE DISTRIBUTION IN ESSEX SOUTH.

The Trustees of the Bible Society of Salem and vicinity, having completed the work of exploration and distribution, which was commenced in June, 1846, respectfully submit the following statement of results.

. . . In *Topsfield*, 205 families visited; destitute, 4; partly destitute, 6; sold 90, at cost \$30.51; given, 19, at cost \$5.70.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 7, 1848.*

### COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The hearing upon the petition of B. B. Towne and others for a new highway from near Wenham Causeway to the Burley farm road, so called, has been adjourned for view and further hearing to Monday, March 20, at the house of Benjamin Towne in *Topsfield*.

*Salem Gazette. Feb. 15, 1848.*

TOPSFIELD. On Sunday night, 26th, about 12 o'clock, an unoccupied dwelling house in *Topsfield* near the Boxford line, belonging to Asa Pingree, Esq., was discovered to be on fire, and an alarm was given in the neighborhood. Mr. Isaac Hale, who resides in the neighborhood, and his family, left their house for a short time to witness the conflagration, and during their absence a gold watch was stolen therefrom.

# NEWSPAPER ITEMS RELATING TO TOPSFIELD.

COPIED FROM SALEM NEWSPAPERS

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(Continued from Vol. XVII, page 119.)

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In 1846, 205 families visited; destitute, 4; partly destitute, 6; sold 20, at cost \$20.11; given, 19, at cost \$2.70.

Salem Gazette, Jan. 7, 1847.

## COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

The hearing upon the petition of H. H. Towne and others for a new highway from near Weeham, Causway, to the Burley farm road, so called, has been adjourned for view and further hearing to Monday, March 20, at the house of Benjamin Towne in Topsfield.

Salem Gazette, Feb. 12, 1847.

TOPSFIELD. On Sunday night, 26th, about 12 o'clock, an unoccupied dwelling house in Topsfield near the Boxford line, belonging to Asa Pinney, Esq., was discovered to be on fire, and an alarm was given in the neighborhood. Mr. Isaac Hale, who resides in the neighborhood, and his family, left their house for a short time to witness the conflagration, and during their absence a gold watch was stolen therefrom.



The watch was soon after offered for sale in Boston and recovered, and the affair is now in the hands of the police.

*Salem Gazette, June 28, 1859.*

[For the Newburyport Herald.]

TOPSFIELD, Oct. 15th, 1859.

To the Editors of the Herald—Gentlemen: At the solicitation of the Academicians of our town, I attended their Fair on Friday last, and the potency of the jollification made so deep an impression on my susceptible nature, that I was inspired to write in off hand verse the sayings and doings, in their simplicity, which you will please insert in your paper, excusing its length, which you know is my peculiarity.

C. H. HOLMES.

#### THE ACADEMIC FAIR.

While Wednesday last on business bent,  
A youth gave me a sentiment,  
Observing that I must prepare,  
Some funny thing for Friday's Fair;  
That in due course one would propose,  
Something 'bout poetry and prose.  
Then I could rise at this OUTCALL,  
And say my say before them all,  
Or whatever in my head would pop;  
He knew I'd do the thing "tip top,"  
Supposing from my "tip top" height,  
I'd get off something very bright.  
Thinks I, I'll go, 'twill make folk stare,  
To see a real Polar bear—  
A strapping fellow six feet eight,  
Yes, I'll be there at any rate.  
Talk about poetry and prose!  
A broader theme no man e'er chose!  
"Like a needle in a hay mow",  
The thing's to find the point, I trow,  
Yet with some small botheration,  
I drew a kind of relation,  
With now and then an incident,

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*Salem Gazette, June 25, 1859.*

[For the Newburyport Herald.]

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 Supposing from my "tip top" height,  
 I'd get off something very bright.  
 Thanks I, I'll go, 'twill make folk stare,  
 To see a real Polar bear—  
 A strapping fellow six feet eight,  
 Yes, I'll be there at any rate,  
 Talk about poetry and prose!  
 A broader theme no man e'er chose!  
 "Like a needle in a hay mow,"  
 The thing's to find the point, I know,  
 Yet with some small hesitation,  
 I drew a kind of relation,  
 With now and then an incident,

To raise a laugh, which is my bent,  
I got some how or other through,  
So that I thought the thing would do.  
But one thing caused me much distress,  
And it was this—how I should dress.  
My common dress each neighbor knows,  
Resembles oft the scare of crows,  
My cowhide boots and slouching hat,  
Looking, save this, I scarce know what.  
First from my closet I drew out,  
And pulled and hauled my clothes about,  
Selecting then from my whole "kit,"  
Just what I thought would be most fit;  
Placing my feet within my shoes  
I shined them up as black as loes;  
Then I put on my coal black coat  
Without a wrinkle or a mote:  
With a studded shirt, standing dickey—  
Was'nt I a BRUMMEL, oh Crickey?  
Looking much like a stuffed chicken,  
Spit and skewer in him sticking.  
Accoutred thus I forward strode,  
Taking the middle of the road.  
My EPIC now may be deferred  
While on our school I say a word:  
Our Academy is thrifty,  
And oft numbers more than fifty;  
I cannot well the number fix,  
But once it reached e'en ninety-six:  
Some terms than others it has more,  
And yet than fifty seldom's lower;  
The Principal's a business man,  
And in all matters takes the van;  
Sees to the morals of the lad,  
Reproves and regulates the bad.  
Him a preceptress too assists,  
And several others he enlists.  
Here one can study ancient lore,  
Or just enough to keep a store;  
Can learn to say the A. B. C.,



To raise a laugh, which is my bent,  
 I got some how or other through,  
 So that I thought the thing would do,  
 But one thing caused me much distress,  
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 Facing my feet within my shoes  
 I shined them up as black as jets;  
 Then I put on my coal black coat  
 Without a wrinkle or a mote;  
 With a studded shirt, standing dickey—  
 Wasn't I a FRANKLIN, oh Chickery?  
 Looking much like a stuffed chicken,  
 Spit and answer in him sticking,  
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 Him a preceptor too assists,  
 And several others he enlists,  
 Here one can study ancient lore,  
 Or just enough to keep a store;  
 Can learn to say the A. B. C.,

Or be propelled towards LL. D. ;  
Learn music, which charms the savage,  
Lulls Cerberus, moves the cabbage ;  
Or any like accomplishment,  
For which young scholars here are sent.  
For many reasons I'd commend,  
That children parents do here send.  
First, Topsfield is a healthy place,  
Well tested by our long lived race ;  
Our hill slopes have a bracing air,  
That paints our ladies' cheeks so fair ;  
Our vales are free from chilly damps,  
That pierce the frame with colds and cramps ;  
And there's no miasmatic flood,  
Where gangrene waters long have stood ;  
And we've a mountain barrier,  
Where the cold East comes just "so far,"  
'Neath which is a wide extended plain  
Teeming with crops of grass and grain ;  
While our hill pastures grow the herd,  
Which yields the cheese engendered curd ;  
And we have many rides and walks  
On hills and vales for pleasant talks :  
And then we have a famous pond,  
A miniature Loch Lomond,  
Which is well stocked with perch and pout,  
And pickerel and salmon trout ;  
And here one, too, can take a sail,  
If he'll in skiff, adventure, frail ;  
And those who like it surely could,  
Hunt birds and squirrels in the wood ;  
Take any kind of exercise  
To make one "healthy, wealthy, wise,"  
And practice every simple fun,  
That youth e'er practice 'neath the sun ;  
And then there's not a fairer view,  
In any land, or old or new,  
Than's seen from our own "River-hill"  
With scope of plain and copse and rill ;  
And the meandering Agawam,





Threading its way through meads of balm.  
Our little ville's spread at the feet,  
The houses with verandas neat,  
Its schoolhouse and its meeting spires,  
Where live the sons as lived the sires,  
With interspersions here and there,  
Of cottages as quaint as rare,  
And the true farm house, whose build  
Shows the substantial with less gild,  
While woods on woods lay far beyond  
Our little fairy Lake Lomond.  
And then our genial neighborhood  
Has always been esteemed quite good;  
Go where we will we find some bad;  
And yet none better can be had;  
Those too who leave the place to roam,  
Recall with joy their "Mountain Home."  
A stranger here, by lineage  
I hope to spend a green old age:  
I like not well these far, far roams,  
And this to me's the HOME OF HO(L)MES.  
There goes through town a good railroad,  
And scholars can leave their abode,  
Bringing their own bread and butter.  
And go back at night to supper.  
The President of our road, Poole,  
Who by the way is sure "no fool,"  
Has run our road so well and wise,  
The "Maine folks" wish to compromise;  
The handsomest, kindest man,  
That ever yet a railroad ran;  
But if the scholars wish to board,  
They'll find our larders here well stored;  
And if they'll come we all will try  
To treat them with due courtesy.  
Saying thus much I will go back,  
And try to gain the FAIRWARD track.  
Entering the Hall my bow I made  
To youth, men, maidens of each grade;  
The hall was dressed with simple taste,



No useless show, no lavish waste,  
 But well arranged, verdant and neat,  
 And to my taste it seemed complete.  
 The dresses of the ladies, too,  
 Were plain, not gaudy, "good as new."  
 While not as once, the bosom screen  
 Was buttoned to the chin, I ween,  
 And save the fashioned widened hoops,  
 Little of furbelow and loops.  
 Soon they commenced to circle round,  
 "With pipe and harp and viol's sound."  
 Now with a slow, then quicker pace,  
 The miss enacting all with grace.  
 I saw the Doctor in the throng,  
 As if he did to youth belong,  
 And seemed just in his element,  
 With joke, and laugh, and compliment,  
 Prancing, limber as a kitten,  
 Young as when a boy first smitten;  
 And then the Doctor has a way,  
 Of suiting both the grave and gay,  
 A kind word for everybody—  
 News disconsolate and moody;  
 Ever the gentleman urbane;  
 May he with us long, long remain!  
 Yet we with this ourselves console,  
 That he'll ne'er leave us on the whole,  
 Since he's transmitted through each boy  
 His very self without alloy.  
 As I sat there a pretty girl,  
 With laughing eye and raven curl,  
 And quite a roguish look, and sly,  
 Solicited my company.  
 Said I, "Please excuse me!" "Excuse,  
 No sir, I'll not, so 'tis no use."  
 With that she trundled me right out,  
 Amid uproarious laugh and shout.  
 Thinks I, I'm in for't: now for sport;  
 And though I'm LONG I can be short,  
 And in some way accomodate





My length to my peculiar mate.  
I complimented the beauty,  
Talked concerning love and duty;  
I scarcely knew of this or that,  
Save that my heart went "pit a pat."  
And now the player "louder blew,"  
The partners quick and quicker flew,  
And we went it, "round, round, round,"  
With hop, skip, and jump right wound,  
Leaving me for another mate,  
I was much like the fishes bait;  
Now one at my arm would nibble,  
One would seize it with a giggle;  
For this appeared to be the game,  
Which is called—I've forgot the name.  
The tune—and 'twas the queerest thing,  
Sounded like this, when they did sing—  
"Higglety, Pigglety, & Co.,  
Oh do come and kiss me, do, do,"  
And seemed to have but just two staves,  
Much like the rise and fall of waves;  
At times there was a marked clash, clash,  
As when the opposing surges lash;  
Yet throughout all this race and rush,  
Was not an act to make one blush;  
Nor was there yet one lad or miss,  
Who hinted or e'en looked a kiss:  
And e'en his reverence "of the staff."  
Sometimes would join the "vacant laugh."  
And now was heard the welcome call,  
To take refreshment 'neath the hall.  
So we all went adown the stairs,  
And singly some, and some by pairs;  
The misses by the tables near,  
The gentles bringing up the rear;  
The Parson who was present there,  
Then graced the feast with debonnaire.  
The scholars had prepared the Feast  
From parts of ox and porker beast.  
With cakes, tarts, pies, milk, coffee, tea,





And that the nicest, not Bohea.  
The misses with each other vied,  
Backwards and forwards as they hied  
To urge on one some nice choice thing,  
"And thus went round and round the ring."  
" 'Tis very good, you'd better try  
And take a piece of cake and pie;  
At least you'll take a choice sweet heart,  
Surely of mine you'll take a part."  
Thus hither, thither they did fly  
With graceful assiduity.  
Well freighted now we sought the "Hall,"  
To tell our "crack before them all."  
The princess sought a Royal speech,  
Which was well answered by the LEECH;  
Then there came a Mister Herrick  
Who gave us something smooth and slick,  
And next the Preceptor's chum,  
Who straight from Andover did come;  
Then hosts of Academics came,  
The whole to me unknown by name;  
E'en the little "witch of Endor,"  
Who for me performed the tender,  
And who no doubt some youth will craze,  
Since she a PROPHET dead did raise—  
Was wholly by her name unknown,  
For such a BEAR I here had grown.  
Now as great bodies move not fast,  
It seemed to come my turn at last;  
So I a prosy speech begun,  
And ended with poetic fun;  
My patron saint did then invoke,  
And then these final words I spoke;  
"Thinking 'twould please each youthful miss,  
I thought I'd speak about the kiss,  
Surely 'twill please each gentleman,  
And ladies need not use the fan,  
For I will cause no one to blush,"  
So here it goes—be silent—hush!  
Then came conundrums, witty strokes,



Puns, and all kinds and sorts of jokes.  
As all things have an end at last,  
It being ten o'clock and past,  
With many a kind wished good night  
Of pleasant dreams and slumbers light,  
Little and big we all cleared out,  
"Merrily, ho," with a laugh and shout.  
The Fair's whole detail pleased me much;  
And of its phases, such and such,  
There was all absence of pretence,  
And no display of wondrous sense,  
Save wondrous sense is always known  
By true simplicity alone.  
E'en their speeches were as simple  
As the laughing beauty's dimple,  
With not a big or learned word  
Save but to show the thing absurd.  
Nice arrangement there surely was,  
And yet appeared no real cause;  
There seemed to be some "hidden hand,"  
That unseen prompted each demand,  
Or resolution of the whole,  
And guided with but just one soul.  
There was no jostling to and fro,  
But each one knew just what to do,  
And all was social, cordial, kind,  
Not overdone, natural, refined.  
The music, too, was capital,  
And everything complete—all—all.

TOPSFIELD.—RURAL LEVEE AND SOCIABLE.—Some score or less of the young ladies of our village, taking advantage of their undisputed privileges, of *leap year*, and accompanied by as many young gentlemen, for support and accomodation, in these slippery times, made a social call last Thursday evening, on a young gentleman of the medical profession, who has neglected *one* of the things needful, a little beyond the appointed time, and whose merit is only surpassed by his extreme modesty.

As the Dr. might not expect so many patients at one time, professional aid had been provided at hand. Since he had



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There was all absence of pretence,  
And of its phrases such and such,  
The Fair's whole detail pleased me much;  
"Merely, no," with a laugh and shout,  
Little and big we all cleared out,  
Of pleasant dreams and slumber light,  
With many a kind wished good night,  
It being ten o'clock and past,  
As all things have an end at last,  
Funs and all kinds and sorts of jokes.

TOPSFIELD.—RURAL LEYER AND SOCIABLE.—Some score or less of the young ladies of our village, taking advantage of their undisturbed privileges of 16½ years, and accompanied by as many young gentlemen for support and accommodation, in these slippery times, made a social call last Thursday evening, on a young gentleman of the medical profession, who has neglected one of the things needed, a little beyond the appointed time, and whose merit is only surpassed by his extreme modesty.  
As the Dr. might not expect so many patients at one time, professional aid had been provided at hand. Since he had

been rather reserved as regards the acceptance of invitations to our social evening gatherings, the Ladies thought they would take this method to become better acquainted with him, professing that if they should ever need his professional services, he might have opportunity to learn something of their habits and dispositions, somewhat necessary for the safety of the patient and success of the Physician.

If the Doctor received no tender and lasting impressions on the occasion, he must truly be in fault, for such beauty and charms do not grow in every *bush* I can assure you; and the young gentlemen were not far in arrear, who performed their part in an active but chastened manner.

After spending the evening in various impromptu diversions, and after paying due respect to an inviting table, which had been furnished by the gentleman, the party separated, the ladies gallanting to their quarters the gentleman.

After the self invited guests had left, the Dr. found upon his table a very superb volume, entitled the COURT OF NAPOLEON, accompanied by a note expressing the interest which the young ladies had in the professional success of the Doctor, and requesting his acceptance of the volume.

Now if the splendid engravings in the volume, added to the sparkling flashes from the eyes of the loving models about him, do not touch a tender chord in the Dr's heart, we shall have to give him over as incorrigible. Who'll be QUEEN of the Dr's\* COURT twelve months hence?

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 27, 1860.*

TOPSFIELD.—Joel Lake, Esq., who died in Topsfield, on the 1st of May, at the age of 56 years, has for twenty years occupied no small space in the public mind, connected with fruit and tree culture. His operations in this line have extended throughout the Commonwealth and into the neighboring States. Our agricultural shows will miss his contributions at their public tables, where he rarely failed of attracting the public attention, and obtaining the best premiums. His pomological conversation and free remarks were always listened to with interest and profit. He gave a great part of his time to the subject, and spared no pains to obtain the

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\*Justin Allen, M. D., who died in Topsfield, unmarried, in 1908.

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*Western Gazette, Jan. 25, 1860.*

**TOPSFIELD.**—Joel Lake, Esq., who died in Topsfield, on the 1st of May, at the age of 56 years, has for twenty years occupied no small space in the public mind, connected with fruit and tree culture. His operations in this line have extended throughout the Commonwealth and into the neighboring States. Our agricultural shows will miss his contributions at their public tables, where he rarely failed of attracting the public attention, and obtaining the best premiums. His homological conversation and free remarks were always listened to with interest and profit. He gave a great part of his time to the subject, and spared no pains to obtain the

\* *Journal of Allen, M. D., who died in Topsfield, unpublished, in 1908.*



rarest and most celebrated specimens of new fruits which were brought out, both in our own vicinity and from importations. But the greatest void will be made by his unexpected death, in his own family connections and among his neighbors, who were accustomed to look to him for counsel and direction. He leaves a bereaved and disconsolate widow to mourn his sudden departure, having buried an only son in his early life.

*Salem Gazette, May 11, 1860.*

### ESSEX INSTITUTE.

The first Field Meeting, the present season, under the auspices of the Essex Institute, took place at Topsfield, on June 8, 1860, postponement from Wednesday, the day appointed, on account of the unfavorable condition of the weather. Those from Salem and vicinity took an early train and arrived after a short ride, at Topsfield, which is located nearly in the geographic centre of the county and contains some of the highest lands within its limits, and before the age of railroads was the great place for holding county conventions, &c; but the later modes of travelling have made great changes in the relative condition and importance of many of our inland towns and villages.

After leaving the cars, the party dispersed in various directions, as taste and inclination dictated. Some partook themselves to the ponds and brooks, in search of the fishes, reptiles, &c; there to be found;—some to the woods and meadows in quest of Flora's treasures, whilst others ranged the hills and enjoyed the beautiful scenery and extended views there presented. A few visited the Treadwell farm bequeathed to the Essex Agricultural Society, by the late Dr. John G. Treadwell of Salem,—to be used by them in such a manner as will best advance the science of agriculture. It is now under the care of Mr. Brown, who very politely took them over the grounds and pointed out the various experiments which he was making in respect to the importance of some of the best kinds of manures, and the different modes of their application. The Society has not had possession of this farm long enough to obtain satisfactory results from their experiments, but without doubt as

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Salem Gazette, May 17, 1860.

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years roll on, the accumulation of important agricultural facts deduced from these successive experiments will contribute much to our knowledge on these important subjects. On this farm were noticed some fine specimens of the old Pasture Oak, one of which had been recently levelled to the ground by the woodman's axe,—the question was suggested whether our farmers do plant the oak and thus replace those old trees which are gradually passing away, and have contributed so much to the beauties and picturesque appearance of our fields and pastures, and at the same time of so much importance in ship building. We also noticed two very large old Locust trees, one of which measured, four feet from the ground, ten feet in circumference; seldom do these trees escape the ravages of the borers to attain to this size.

Soon after noon the various parties began to collect at Union Hall, in the basement of the Methodist church, which had been generously tendered to the Institute for this occasion,—here the temporary table was placed on which were deposited the contents of sundry baskets brought by the several members,—the bracing and invigorating air of these hills and the ramble of several hours induced an appetite which did ample justice to the repast. After spending an hour or two in social conversation and cordial greeting of friends from different parts of the county, the meeting was called to order by Vice President, Rev. John L. Russell, who presided on the occasion.

The Chair then offered some remarks upon the history and formation of the Institute and its present condition and objects—as is usual when a meeting is held in a place where the operations of the Institute are but little known. The objects of these field meetings were alluded to, and the manner of conducting the same. MR. JOHN M. IVES of Salem, being called upon, mentioned that he found some beautiful specimens of the painted cup, *Bartsia coccinea*, the locality in Topsfield was new to him. The chief beauty of this plant consists in its bracts and not in the corolla, as in most of our flowers. These bracts are four or five cleft, the segment oblong, obtuse and of a bright scarlet color at top. He also alluded to the fact that the first public meeting of the



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Essex Co. Natural History Society took place at the old Hotel in this place in 1834, and that the first field meeting under the present organization also was held at the academy building some four years since.

DR. R. H. WHEATLAND gave the result of his researches this day. He mentioned having found four species of fishes, four of frogs, one of snakes, and three of turtles, and offered some remarks upon their habits, &c. He also exhibited a specimen of a blind fish; also a crab, (*Astacus fluviatiles*) recently brought from the Mammoth Cave, in Kentucky, by Mr. B. C. Putnam of Wenham.

The Chair then alluded to a specimen of the seventeen year Locust, from Virginia, handed in by Mr. Felt, and made some remarks upon its habits—which are said to do but little damage singly, though when they come, as they often do, in myriads, commit great destruction in vegetation. He also spoke a good word in favor of crows and robins, contending that they did more good than harm, although they would eat a little fruit, as cherries, strawberries, &c., and yet the good they accomplish in the destruction of grubs and worms more than counterbalances.

MR. SAMUEL TODD of Topsfield desired to call the attention of the association to some gravel pits in the neighborhood. This place, on which this village is situated, extends from one to one and a half miles in extent, and is a sandy formation; in the midst, or on its top, are found these gravelly knolls, probably drifted down from the north by the ice, as is now generally believed to be the case with the huge boulders in some parts of the country. He also thought the red gravel spoken of by Dr. Kane as covering the ice for miles, to be of this character. The Chair followed with a few general remarks upon the subject of drift, regretting the absence of our esteemed friend, Hon. B. F. Mudge, who has, since our last meeting, removed to the far west, and when with us considered Geology as his peculiar study.

MR. C. M. TRACY of Lynn gave some account of his botanical rambles, and spoke of the various plants that had been gleaned during the day, accompanying the same with many interesting and instructive remarks on the habits, the economy &c., of the different species enumerated.

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The Committee on Field Meetings reported that the next meeting would take place at Groveland, on Wednesday, June 27th, if the weather should be favorable.

After passing a vote of thanks to the proprietors of the Methodist Church for their kindness in granting the free use of this commodious hall for the Institute this day,—also to Messrs. Phillips, Adams, Merriam, Holmes, Peabody, Leach, and others, for their polite attentions to the members and their friends, during this visit to Topsfield, and some general remarks from the Chair, who expressed great pleasure, in behalf of the association, in coming to Topsfield, and who was gratified in noticing so many of the citizens of the place participating in the doings of the Institute,—the meeting then adjourned.

On leaving the hall, we noticed in a wagon near the building, a beautiful specimen of the white headed eagle, belonging to Eleazer Lake of Topsfield, which was captured in December, 1858; also, a living specimen of a large white owl, belonging to Geo. Killam of East Boxford, which was captured in December last. This last specimen did not appear to be the common snow owl, but probably is an albino of some other species. Both specimens appeared to be in a healthy condition.

An interesting specimen of a smooth ball taken from the pouch of an ox was exhibited, and presented to the Cabinets of the Institute by Osgood Perley.

The occasion proved very pleasant to all who participated, and much gratification was expressed at the attentions that were shown to the visitors.

*Salem Gazette, June 15, 1860.*

## DEATHS

In Topsfield, June 27, Mr. David B. Balch, 77 years. His death was very sudden. He was reading, in his chair, apparently well, and fell dead instantly.

*Salem Gazette, July 3, 1860.*

TOPSFIELD, JULY 16. On Thursday last, as Mr. J. Porter Gould was standing on top of a load of hay in his field at Topsfield, the horses suddenly started and threw him backwards on the ground, fracturing his spine in two places. He

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lingered, in great agony, until about 6 o'clock this morning (Monday,) when he died. Never has there been more sadness resting on the countenances of our citizens, than that caused by this sad affair. Mr. Gould was in the full tide of an active business, about 44 years of age, and universally esteemed. He leaves a family of four children, the youngest about 3 weeks old.

*Salem Gazette, July 17, 1860.*

TOPSFIELD. The thunder storm of Wednesday was very severe in Topsfield. The Academy building was struck and much damaged; the lightning first striking the cupola, passing through the roof, the upper and lower stories, through all the floors to the ground. It is supposed that the lightning passed from the building to the railroad track, which is very near the Academy. Several of the windows and their frames were forced out, the plastering torn off, the stove and funnel on the lower floor thrown about, and much other damage done.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 14, 1860.*

TOPSFIELD. Otis Mann will run omnibusses from Topsfield to the camp meeting at Hamilton, during the week.

Mr. Mann has also established a stage between B. P. Adam's store, Bull Brook, Lovelet's and Pine Swamp.

Wm. Waitt has established a daily express between Topsfield, Danvers, So. Danvers and Salem.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 17, 1860.*

#### Topsfield Academy

THIS Academy will be opened this Fall as an Institution for Young Ladies, under the care of Mrs. S. J. CHADWICK.

Competent Assistants will be employed and thorough instruction will be given in all the various Classical and English branches,—with Music, Drawing and Painting.

The term will commence on the first Wednesday of October, (having been deferred from August, as previously advertised,) and continue ten weeks.

Tuition \$5.00. Languages and Ornamental Branches, extra. For further particulars, inquire of the Principal at Bradford, Mass.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 11, 1860.*



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Salem Gazette, Aug. 15, 1860.

#### Topsfield Academy

This Academy will be opened this Fall as an Institution for Young Ladies, under the care of Mr. S. J. CHAMBERLIN. Competent Assistants will be employed and thorough instruction will be given in all the various Classical and English branches,—with Music, Drawing and Painting. The term will commence on the first Wednesday of October (having been deferred from August, as previously advertised) and continue ten weeks. Tuition \$2.00. Languages and Ornamental Branches extra. For further particulars, inquire of the Principal at Ipsford, Mass.

Salem Gazette, Sept. 14, 1860.

## A PLEASANT JAUNT.

A pleasant trip is that through Topsfield, Boxford, and Georgetown, three worthy places and two of them members of the same parent stock. Topsfield is in fact one of the prettiest places "out-of-doors," as the saying goes. It presents a real delightful look as viewed, on some pleasant spring, summer or autumnal day, from the summit of the hill over which the Newburyport Turnpike extends, and down which the visitor wends his way when approaching the village from Danvers. The Ipswich river winds through the town, and the green hills and cultivated slopes which line the valley bespeak the excellence of the soil. We always like to go to Topsfield, notwithstanding the quietness of its demeanor and anti-commercial reputation indicated by the mythical character of its Long Wharf, to which the jocular allusion is almost too old to be repeated. The peculiarities we have named, very likely constitute the chief attraction. Topsfield has its outskirts, though, in which respect it is not dissimilar to a place of greater pretension. These outskirts find their chief note in belonging to the same corporation, territorially speaking, though there are many fine farms along the "outer edges" of the place, of which the sojourner in the village would have but a very inadequate idea. Away off in the direction of Ipswich, there is a locality which bears the designation of "Firetown." We are not sure whether Ipswich or Topsfield is entitled to the honor of possessing this classic precinct. The good folks of Firetown are said to be an excellent kind of people, but why they adopt such a designation as that above given, we cannot for our life determine. It cannot be for their fiery disposition or temperament, because their reputation indicates an opposite condition of things; and conflagrations in that neighborhood could not, of necessity, extend over a wide area, and are probably not frequent. "Firetown" has a meeting-house, which reminds us, on the whole, that the section is peculiar to Ipswich and has nothing to do with the place of which we are speaking, though in such close proximity as to be somewhat identified with in the interests of local trade and traffic.

The village of Topsfield is in a beautiful hollow formed by the rich and lovely hills, the surfaces of which are marked by





that verdancy, smoothness and uniformity which please the eye. The houses are comparatively few, yet they bear the marks of neatness and every indication of the thrift of the inmates. Two or three of them, are decidedly beyond the average of country village habitations, among which may be mentioned that of CHAS. HERRICK, a successful shoe-manufacturer, the interior of whose establishment bears testimony to the extent of his operations. Mr. HERRICK'S house has been erected within a few years, and there is another near it which would indicate the pecuniary success of its owner. The CLEVELAND House, on the opposite side of the way, is a structure which, though of antique construction, presents a look of freshness and uniqueness combined; and is one of those mansions that would invariably prompt the passing railroad traveller to inquire of his neighbor on the next seat what recollections cluster about the place. We are not aware that there are any, and therefore content our imagination with a revel within its walls, or a stroll over the beautiful hill which rises up behind it.

Since the Danvers and Georgetown railroad was opened, there has been quite a little amount of building in the village. There are two or three houses on the steep road which winds over "Lake's Hill"—an elevation which, in its day, has sent many pomological specimens to our agricultural and horticultural shows. One or two houses have been erected near the depot, too, and Mr. WRIGHT, another shoe-manufacturer, of the place, has, within a late period, built a new house creditable to the looks of the place.

The people of Topsfield are mostly farmers, and have been distinguished for the pursuit of land-tillage from the earliest times. The Treadwell Farm, bequeathed, by the late Dr. TREADWELL, to the Essex Agricultural Society, the CROWNINSHIELD and BRADSTREET Farms, and numerous others of lesser note, make the place distinguished in the annals of local agriculture. There are a few old names peculiar to Topsfield,—PERKINS, WILDES, TOWNE, BALCH, and perhaps others,—most of whom continue to till the farms of their fathers. There is much fruit raised in the place, and the yield of apples is usually very large. Many of these find a market in Salem, either in the natural state or in the shape





of sweet cider, of which the Topsfield manufacture is behind nothing of that line, in quality. Aside from the manufacture of shoes, this town is but little distinguished other than as an agricultural place. It has its local mechanics, however, and the business of butchery as conducted by the Messrs. Monday, near the depot, has been distinguished for years, all the county over, for supplying a very considerable proportion of the nutriment of this anti-vegetarian neighborhood. A blacksmith's shop has sprung into existence near the depot, and the quick and continued descent of the hammer upon the anvil indicates a fair supply of work to be done. There are two groceries in the place, one of which is kept by Mr. KIMBALL, the other by Mr. ADAMS. Mr. ADAMS' store, in addition to the honor of dispensing West India Goods to the good people, performs the duty of post-office, and is consequently a conspicuous center for the diffusion of local news and general information. We are not to presume that the profits from this office will quite equal those of the big cities; and so the P. M. can continue to perform the duties of his station to the acceptance of the citizens, without essential danger of being beheaded for opinion's sake.

There are two churches in the town, one of the Methodist and the other of the Orthodox Congregational denomination. Each meeting-house is graced with a spire, which looms up with the usual architectural beauty of such structures, and as a convenient mark to notify the approaching visitor that Topsfield is in close proximity. The Congregational Church was formed in Nov. 1663, though there was preaching in the place twenty years earlier. Rev. THOMAS GILBERT, a native of Scotland, was the first preacher and he remained at his post eight years, when he resigned, and died two years afterwards. We believe there have been nine pastors, in all, connected with this church, the sixth being Rev. ASAHEL HUNTINGTON, father of the Clerk of Courts for this county, and to whom Judge CUMMINS, at the Topsfield celebration, ten years ago, said the description of Goldsmith's "Village Preacher" would apply:—"A man he was to all the country dear."

The Methodist Society has been formed thirty years. The Academy in Topsfield is a structure of considerable note,





and is pleasantly and healthfully situated upon an elevation which rejoices in the classic designation, "Academy Hill." The institution is under the charge of different instructors, from time to time, and its patronage is secured from the citizens of this and the neighboring towns. A year or two since, C. H. HOLMES, a lawyer of Topsfield,—and a pretty *tall* specimen of the profession, at that,—wrote a humorous article, in verse, describing a fair by the friends of this institution. It may be amusing to the reader to hear the reasons—described in rhyme—why parents should send their children to this academy. They are true, as this passage will show:—

First, Topsfield is a healthy place,  
Well tested by our long-lived race:  
Our hill slopes have a bracing air,  
That paints our ladies' cheeks so fair;  
Our vales are free from chilly damps  
That pierce the frame with colds and cramps;  
And there's no miasmatic flood,  
Where gangrene waters long have stood;  
And we've a mountain barrier,  
Where the cold East comes just "so far,"  
'Neath which is a wide extended plain  
Teeming with crops of grass and grain;  
While our hill pastures grow the herd,  
Which yields the cheese engendered curd;  
And we have many rides and walks  
On hills and vales for pleasant talks;  
And then we have a famous pond;  
A miniature Loch Lomond,  
Which is well stocked with perch and pout,  
And pickerel and salmon trout;  
And here one, too, can take a sail,  
If he'll in skiff, adventure, frail;  
And those who like it surely could  
Hunt birds and squirrels in the wood;  
Take any kind of exercise  
To make one "healthy, wealthy, wise,"  
And practise every simple fun,  
That youth e'er practise 'neath the sun;





And then there's not a fairer view,  
 In any land, or old or new,  
 Than's seen from our own "River-hill,"  
 With scope of plain and copse and rill;  
 And the meandering Agawam,  
 Threading its way through meads of balm.

\* \* \* \* \*

And then our genial neighborhood  
 Has always been esteemed quite good;  
 Go where we will we find some bad—  
 And yet none better can be had;  
 Those, too, who leave the place to roam,  
 Recall with joy their "Mountain Home."  
 A stranger here, by lineage,  
 I hope to spend a green old age;  
 I like not well these far, far roams,  
 And this to me's the HOME OF HO(L)MES.

The first settlement of Topsfield dates as far back as 1635, although the town was *incorporated* two hundred and ten years ago. The Indian name of the place was *Sheweene-meady*. The whites called it New Meadows though it was incorporated under the name of Topsfield, Aug. 29, 1650—the name being taken from Topsfield in England, from which place some of the first settlers probably migrated. The two hundredth anniversary was celebrated ten years ago, and the interesting occasion was participated in by many wandering sons of the place, who returned for the purpose. Several men whose names are prominent in our colonial history are identified as residents and land owners in the town, among whom are GOVS. ENDICOTT and BRADSTREET and Deputy Gov. SAMUEL SYMONDS. The people of the place have always maintained a patriotic devotion to the principles of liberty, and took action, by vote, on various occasions, favorable to the policy which resulted in American Independence. Many other facts of interest could be presented in this connection; but this article is already too long for a single dose. Besides, we must hasten away in the coming train for Boxford, of which place our contemplated remarks must be deferred till another issue of the Gazette.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 18, 1860.*





TOPSFIELD.—A Company of Wide Awakes has been organized in *Topsfield*, with the following officers:—Commander—Nath'l Conant; Adjutant—Charles J. P. Floyd; Lieutenants—J. Brown, A. Orne, E. P. Averell and J. M. Phillips; Sergeant—N. Gould, J. Strangman, J. B. Lake and M. B. Hill.

Hon. D. W. Gooch was to address the citizens of Topsfield at Union Hall, last evening, Oct. 11th, upon the issues of the pending Presidential contest.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 12, 1860.*

TOPSFIELD.—There was a Wide Awake demonstration in Topsfield on Tuesday evening, at which the Wide Awakes of the town with those of Georgetown and a delegation from Danvers participated. The procession marched through the village accompanied by the Salem Brass Band, and at nine o'clock, a bountiful supper was partaken of at Union Hall, which is in the basement of the Methodist Church. Speeches were made by Messrs. W. D. Northend and E. W. Kimball of Salem, and Harrison Gray, A. A. Putnam and J. W. Andrews of Danvers.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 23, 1860.*

TOPSFIELD. *Treadwell Farm*,—Jan. 14. The Thermometer registered on Jan. 13, at 7 o'clock A. M., 16° below; at 2 o'clock P. M., 6 above; at 9 P. M., 10° below. The day clear; wind N. W.; force 3. Monday morning Jan. 14, 7 A. M., 14 below; N. W.; force 3.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 15, 1861.*

TOPSFIELD—*Treadwell Farm, Feb. 11, 1861.* The thermometer registered on the 7th of February, at 7 o'clock A. M., 32° above zero; at 2 o'clock P. M., 44° above; at 9 o'clock P. M., 0. On the 8th of Feb., at 7 o'clock A. M., 24° below zero; at 2 o'clock P. M., 11° below; at 9 o'clock P. M., 11° below. On the 9th of Feb., at 7 o'clock A. M., 9° below; at 2 o'clock P. M., 20 above zero; and at 9 o'clock P. M., 15° above. Wind on the 8th of Feb., N. W.; Force 5.

NATHAN W. BROWN.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 12, 1861.*





TOPSFIELD.—The fourth of July was observed in Topsfield in a very becoming and proper manner. A tall flag-staff—perhaps one hundred and twenty-five feet high—had been erected on the Common near the meeting-houses in the town, and an American flag was duly flung to the breeze with all the ceremony proper to the occasion, and the character of the anniversary. The performances commenced at about one o'clock, and addresses were made by Mr. Todd and Mr. Augustine Peabody—the latter delivering the dedicatory address. From this place the citizens formed in procession and marched to the Grove opposite Dr. Merriam's accompanied by the Rowley Brass Band, where all the pleasures usual at pic-nic gatherings were indulged in very satisfactorily to all concerned. Here a stand was erected, and various gentlemen delivered addresses. Mr. John Wright presided, offering appropriate remarks, and he introduced, severally, Charles H. Holmes, Esq., who read a poem to the American flag; Albert C. Perkins, Esq.; Rev. Mr. Wildes, Rector of Grace Church, Salem; Hon. S. P. Webb, Mayor of Salem; Hon. A. Huntington and Hon. W. D. Northend of Salem; Hon. A. W. Dodge of Hamilton; and Rev. Anson McCloud of Topsfield. The speeches were eloquent and interesting, and very patriotic in tone; and the citizens of the town must surely feel gratified at the very pleasant manner in which everything passed off.

*Salem Gazette, July 9, 1861.*

## DEATHS

In Topsfield, July 31, Deacon John Wright, 57 years. By a remarkable fatality the two deacons of the Orthodox Church in this place, Messrs Peabody and Wright, both of them prominent churchmen and citizens, have been removed by death within one week.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 9, 1861.*

TOPSFIELD.—We have been shown a specimen of sewed army shoes, which it seems to us is the perfection of sewed work. The stitching of the sample before us was performed by Mr. LEWIS K. PERKINS, of Topsfield, who is among the ingenious mechanics of Essex County. If all the sewed





shoes are similar to the work manufactured in Topsfield, they must supersede all pegged work, and during the war and even afterward, must be in great demand. A large portion of the army shoes are being made in Essex County, and Topsfield gets a good share of the work.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 5, 1861.*

### New Postage Stamps.

Having received a supply of Postage Stamps of the NEW STYLE, I am prepared to exchange them for an equivalent amount of the old issue, during a period of Six Days after this date.

Those of the old style will not be received in payment of postage after that time.

B. P. Adams, P. M.

Topsfield, Nov. 15, 1861.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 15, 1861.*

TOPSFIELD, Dec. 5. For the benefit of your readers in this locality, I send you a list of those persons who have enlisted in the Mass. Volunteers, from this town: 2d Regiment, Co. C., David Casey; Co. F., Edward O. Gould, Otis F. Dodge, Chas. H. Clark, T. E. Phillips, Charles H. Lake.—12th Reg., Co. D., James Brown, E. P. Averill, Joel Sweeney, James Dunlop, John Lavin, Philip Welch, John Gould, Charles Carmody, John M. Phillips.—14th Reg., Co. A., John Smith, jr.; Co. I., Daniel H. Smith.—23d Reg., Co. A., John Smith, Benj. F. Deland, Wm. Conant. Co. F., Charles J. P. Floyd, John Brown Lake, Wm. H. Janes, Edward Cummings, Charles Clark, John S. Dudley, Melvin Hill; Co. G., John Gunnison; Co. F., John Jewitt; not attached, Aaron A. Andrews.—Light Artillery, No. 4, John Bradstreet, John W. Rea, Albert Dickerson.—20th Reg., Co. H., John Stevens; Topographical Engineers, Arthur Merriam.

The following named persons have shipped in the U. S. Navy: John Hoyt, John Watson, W. H. H. Foster, Nathan H. Brown, William Clark, Charles Shaumway.

In addition, the company first named, is the Sharpshooters, Capt. Saunders, in which Moses Deland of this place enlisted.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 10, 1861.*





The Battle of Roanoke. Among the wounded reported are John B. Lake of Topsfield of Capt. Whipple's Co. F, 23d Regt., in wrist.

*Salem Gazette, Feb. 18, 1862.*

### February 22d in Topsfield

TOPSFIELD, Feb. 24, 1862. No more in accordance with Executive appointment than with feelings of patriotism, our citizens, after a few hours notice, came together on the evening of the 22d, and by 7 o'clock our large Union Hall was well filled. A. S. Peabody, Esq., took the chair, and in a well timed and patriotic speech electrified the audience and made it easy for others to speak who should follow him. A very appropriate invocation of Divine Grace was offered by Rev. Mr. Peabody, a returned missionary from Turkey, whose heart is as warm for the Union as it is for the conversion of the heathen. Next came the reading of Washington's Farewell Address, by Mr. J. W. Perkins, a student of Harvard College, followed by addresses from Rev. Mr. McLoud, Rev. Mr. Moore of Boston, and Mr. Todd of this town. The exercises were interspersed by singing the Star Spangled Banner, Hail Columbia, and closed with Old Hundred, in which the assembly joined. We were disappointed in not having the impromptu verses prepared a few hours before the meeting, by C. H. Holmes, Esq., on account of a hoarse cold, but who has kindly furnished me with a copy, which I see is dedicated to your paper as follows:—

#### *To the Editor of the Mercury:*

The *Twenty-Second* came off here,  
With more eclat than any year  
I e're remember to have seen  
Since I in Topsfield-ville have been.  
Our flag was hoisted, bells were rung,  
Speeches were made, and songs were sung,  
And all expressed their unfeigned joy,  
Both man and woman, girl and boy.  
At eventide there came the call,  
For speakers, all around the hall,  
And promptly answering to their name,  
Forth from the ranks the speakers came;





And having spent an hour or so  
About our country and our foe,  
We all with one accord retired,  
With patriotic feelings fired.  
In all the fetes for vap(o)ry thought,  
I am the common speaker sought;  
For in all matters needing wind,  
I'm no live man a whit behind.  
Like Stentor at the siege of Troy,  
Who, when he shouted, hip-a-hoy!  
His one shout contained the noises  
Of full fifty human voices;  
So when I speak Stentorian,  
In wind I'm fifty times a man,  
And am a gentleman, no doubt,  
Of consequence here round about.  
Of course I even addressed this time,  
To make a speech in off-hand rhyme,  
But owing to a bad sore throat,  
I could not read the speech I wrote;  
So lest this famous speech be lost,  
Which me two hours of effort cost,  
To you I send the speech I made,  
Just as I should the speech have said.

## INTRODUCTION.

Friend Adams met me on the way,  
Just about twelve o'clock to-day,  
And said he wished I'd speak to-night,  
Say something if it wasn't bright:  
(Rather a doubtful compliment,  
If this my friend sincerely meant.)  
And so with love of country fired,  
I thought I'd do as he desired;  
So I am here to say my say,  
In my plain, common, off-hand way.  
I can insure you nothing nice,  
With scarce a bit or grain of spice,  
But much like that which always come  
From yours, and so forth, C. H. HOLMES.





## THE SPEECH.

Ladies, and gentlemen, and all,  
Assembled in our *Union Hall*,  
Whose very name the heart inspires,  
With sacred, patriotic fires,  
And links it with that man of men,  
The saint, the hero-citizen,  
Our country's noblest, grandest son,  
Our own immortal WASHINGTON—  
On this our chieftain's natal day,  
As we to him our homage pay,  
It joys my heart with you to meet,  
For interchanging kindly greet,  
And on this wise my joy's more great  
At this our present day and date,  
That while in some states men are shorn  
Of all their rights, themselves forlorn,  
Their towns, their livings, lands laid waste,  
By rebels of the ruthless caste,  
Brothers opposed in deadly feud,  
Their hands in brother's blood imbrued,  
And in these parts dread civil war  
Usurps the place of civil law—  
That in these times we may recline,  
Beneath our fig tree and our vine,  
Rejoicing in that liberty,  
Which makes us freest of the free;  
That boon for which our fathers plead,  
That cause for which our fathers bled,  
That heritage to us so dear,  
That Union which we all revere.  
For 'tis the popular will and voice,  
It is the people's idol choice,  
Our country's head and corner stone  
Which binds the many with the one;  
It is the rock on which we stand;  
It is the basis of our land;  
Our nation's great Palladium;  
The Zion where our people come;  
Our politic, our social all,



And with it we must stand and fall!  
To keep this Union unimpaired,  
For which our fathers' arms were bared;  
To well support our Union's cause,  
Our Constitution and our Laws.  
Their sons have taken now the field,  
And with their blood the tie have sealed;  
Determined with their latest breath,  
To fight foul treason to the death;  
And never, never to give o'er,  
Till treason's cry is heard no more;  
Or there be found a traitorous foe,  
From Lake-land e'en to Mexico.  
What though in swelling stream, our blood  
Flows like the Mississippi flood,  
And thousands stiffened lie in gore,  
And thousands and ten thousands more,  
And though it millions, billions cost,  
To well maintain our cong'ring host,  
All these are trifles light as air  
To what we are, and what we were.  
Aye, what we must, what we shall be,  
When we declare our people free.  
On then, my countrymen, march on  
To victories like Donelson,  
Hatteras, Henry, Beaufort,  
And others of the same report—  
Until the common hue and cry,  
Shall be down, down with treachery;  
And like the devil o'er the steep,  
Ingulf it in the deepest deep,  
Till e'en the name be so absurd,  
'Twill never here again be heard;  
And may it, and its authors go,  
Down to the lowest realms below.  
A tribute now to them I'd pay,  
Who did their country's call obey,  
And from their homes and friends would hie,  
And for their country fight and die—  
Engraven on their country's heart,  
More lasting than the works of art,





Will be their deeds of glory done,  
Transmitted down from sire to son.  
As when th' Olympic victor came,  
To his own home, renowned in name,  
The wall his citizens took down,  
And him in triumph bore through town,  
So when our brave defenders come,  
Victors, to their own native home,  
To those who fought, to those who bled,  
With laurels we would crown their head,  
But more to them who gave their life,  
In this, their country's trying strife  
We'd say in words of one inspired,  
Whose harp to lofty strains was lyred,  
Hail! all hail the patriot's grave  
Valor's venerable bed!  
Hail the memory of the brave  
And the memory of the dead!  
Honored, thrice honored, be their name,  
And their rich reward be this:  
Immortality of fame!  
Immortality of bliss!

*Salem Gazette, March 4, 1862.*

### DEATHS

In Topsfield, June 30, Mr. John Bowden, 40 yrs. The subject of this notice was born and reared in England, where he early imbibed the spirit of industry, patience, perseverance, integrity, and Christian faith. He was kind in spirit, and not bigoted in his views and feelings. He possessed more than ordinary abilities, and in youth was blessed with Divine grace. His amiableness, piety and activity secured to him, in a high degree, the respect of all who knew him. For several months he had experienced great suffering which he bore with Christian fortitude. He calmly met his end, trusting surely in Jesus for Salvation. His funeral was attended by the Rev. Father Merrill of the Methodist church in Topsfield, who made a very affectionate address to the mourners and the assembly who were gathered to pay their last tribute of respect to one who had been known and respected so generally.

*Salem Gazette, July 8, 1862.*





TOPSFIELD.—A fatal accident occurred at the Essex County Agricultural farm on Saturday. Edward W. Thompson, a lad about 13 years of age, was riding a horse attached to a cultivator or some other farm implement, and in leaning over to take a drink of water from a pail, which was handed him by the man in charge of the implement, may have touched the horse with his foot in such a manner as to cause the animal to start and throw the lad. The horse kicked about till secured, but the lad was killed.

*Salem Gazette, July 11, 1862.*

## DEATHS

In Topsfield, Sept. 7, Mr. Daniel Perkins, aged 60 yrs. His death was very sudden and unexpected. He attended meeting in the forenoon, and after the service appeared as well and cheerful as usual. Between twelve and one o'clock, he had sat down to his dinner, and was mixing a dish of baked apples and milk when his wife saw him falter, and his head drop forward upon the table; and immediately, in attempting to raise his head, found that life had departed. Mr. Perkins was a valuable and highly respected citizen.

*Salem Gazette, Sept. 9, 1862.*

TOPSFIELD.—On Monday night, the quiet little village of Topsfield was visited by a regular gang of thieves, as it would seem by the following list of adventures on that night: The stable of Mr. Charles Herrick was broken into and robbed of one horse, one new covered wagon, two harnesses, two blankets, one hay cutter, &c.; in fact, everything in Mr. Herrick's stable of any value that could be easily moved, was carried away. It is supposed that this was the first of their depredations. The depot of the Newburyport Railroad was also entered and two cases of army shoes, two lanterns and several other small articles stolen. We hear of their doings next, on the premises of Mr. William Welch, in whose yard a whole week's washing was out. This the rogues cleaned out entirely, not a vestige of anything being left on the lines. We hear of a number of other cases of stealing during the same night, probably by the same gang, such as stealing apples, beans, squashes, &c. Mr. Herrick has offered a re-





ward of 75 dollars for the detection of the thieves and recovery of the property. The robbers were from out of town, undoubtedly.—*Marshall's Express*.

*Salem Gazette, Oct. 7, 1862.*

## DEATHS

In Topsfield, Nov. —, Mr. Thomas Perkins Munday, about 40 yrs.—one of the largest men in Essex County.

*Salem Gazette, Nov, 18, 1862.*

TOPSFIELD, Nov. 19. The funeral ceremonies of the late George Hobson, a member of Co. F, 40th Reg., Mass. Vols., took place yesterday at the Methodist church, Rev. Mr. McCloud, of the Congregational church, and Rev. Mr. Peabody, a returned missionary of the east, officiating. His remains were followed to the grave, by the company under command of Capt. Noyes, of Camp Lander, and a large number of the inhabitants of Topsfield and adjoining towns.

Mr. Hobson died some two weeks since, in the hospital near Washington, and his remains were brought on for interment in his own town. His christian patriotism prompted him to enlist and he has thus early fallen at the age of only twenty-five years. Hobson will be long remembered by his friends and acquaintance, for he was endued with many amiable qualities. He was active and energetic and gave great promise of a bright and prosperous future. He was an affectionate husband, a kind friend and an humble christian. His acquaintances will tender their affectionate sympathies to the stricken wife, parents and relations who mourn the loss of a loved husband, son and brother. R.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 25, 1862.*

DIED. In Topsfield, Nov. 11, Mr. Thos. P. Munday, 44 years, 6 mos. In the death of Mr. Munday, the loss is not confined to his family or immediate neighborhood. His extensive business was such as to afford him a wider range of acquaintance than most men in this community. His business being that of butcher and provision dealer, his name has been familiar throughout the states of Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire, as he had men employed in those states, purchasing cattle and sheep, scattering thousands upon thousands





of dollars among the farmers. His droves were forwarded him by railroad. In former years he had many thousands of sheep from Canada, and paid in one season five hundred dollars duty on sheep alone. The larger part of his business was wholesale, and he furnished many of the retailers in Salem, South Danvers, Marblehead, Beverly and Haverhill with meats; though from his neatly and tastefully painted wagons, the families of many of our towns were furnished with clean and wholesome meats. It may with safety be said, that few men enjoyed a larger share of confidence in the community than Mr. Munday. In his dealings he was honest, honorable and generous. In his own neighborhood,—among his own neighbors, his loss will be sadly felt. Among all classes,—the rich found in him an agreeable and pleasant companion, the middle and business class, a man in whom they had confidence, and the poor a benefactor. It has been his practice, in past years, to supply poor families with a nice turkey and other provisions for Thanksgiving, and aside from his own family, none will have greater cause to mourn than the poor and needy.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 27, 1862.*

It was quite a remarkable fact in connection with the Topsfield celebration that every speaker announced to be present was on hand in spite of the rain. Rarely is gathered together so strong a list of speakers outside of a large city and the speeches were of a high quality throughout.

*Salem Gazette, Jan. 2, 1863.*

Samuel Shepard, Esq., brother of the late Michael Shepard, Esq., of Salem, died suddenly on Friday, in Topsfield. He left his boarding house soon after dinner, to step into a neighbor's, and shortly after was found dead in the street.

On the same day, Mr. Israel Rea met with a severe accident. He went to the barn about 4 o'clock, A. M., to feed his cattle. He ascended a ladder, and when at the top it slipped and he fell, injuring himself very severely if not fatally.

*Salem Gazette, March 13, 1863.*





By Salmon D. Hood, Auctioneer.

### SMALL FARM FOR SALE.

For sale at Auction on FRIDAY NEXT, the 3d. of April, at 11 o'clock, A. M.:

A Farm in Topsfield, of about 15 acres, with a Dwelling House and Barn thereon, three-fourths of a mile from railroad station, churches, and school house, formerly known as the JOSEPH GOULD estate. Sale absolute. Conditions easy.

Reference to A. HUNTINGTON, Salem.

Topsfield, March 30, 1863.

*Salem Gazette, April, 17, 1863.*

TOPSFIELD.—The dwelling house, barn, and out buildings, belonging to Mr. Ephraim Averill of Ipswich, (Linebrook Parish, near Topsfield,) were burned on Wednesday last. A little boy of about four years old applied a lighted match to some hay in the yard, near the barn, and this being connected with the house by a shed, immediately communicated the fire to the house, which, with most of the furniture, was destroyed, together with several tons of hay. No insurance.

Several cases of small pox are now in Topsfield. It is supposed that a young man lately returned from the army brought it in his clothes. As our Selectmen have taken special care to prevent its spreading, but little fear is felt.

Mr. Rufus Welch of this town has lately lost four children by the diphtheria—two were buried last Sabbath.

*Salem Gazette, April 17, 1863.*

TOPSFIELD. The town, the last year, appropriated \$600 for schools, with instructions to lessen the expenses, but to continue the schools the usual length, and, if necessary, to draw on the Treasurer. The funds, according to the annual report, have been expended as follows: North School, \$166; East School, \$141.25; South School, \$197.87; Centre School, senior department, \$151.50; Primary, \$107.40. The average attendance during the *Summer* Term was:—North, 21; East, 14.6; South, 21.5; Centre, senior, 39.75; Centre, primary, 46. During the *Winter* Terms:—North, 18.5; East, 25; South, 32.8; Centre, senior, 27.4; Centre, primary, 19.1. The Report states that "the common and





most useful branches have been pursued with rather more than common success." With the exception of two terms in the Winter, the schools "have all been in charge of females, who have discharged the duties to very general acceptance." The report makes complaint of absence and truancy, though we do not infer that the evil is worse here than in other towns.

*Salem Gazette, May 8, 1863.*

In our account of the interesting services at the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. Mr. Coggin's settlement, in the last paper, it will be remembered that we alluded to one or two old records pertinently raked up to enliven the occasion, by Rev. Mr. Pike, of Rowley, and Rev. Mr. McCloud of Topsfield. These records had reference to the Topsfield and the Boxford churches. From that furnished by the Topsfield minister, we gather that the relations between the two parishes at the time alluded to were not particularly harmonious. It was certainly clear that, in the eyes of Topsfield, Boxford did not show a "christian spirit" in reference to the boundary line. This ill-feeling between the two parishes was so notorious, that one or two anecdotes are still extant to illustrate the case. One Boxford man, for instance, is reputed to have received the announcement, on his sick bed, that there was no hope of his recovery—in short that he was to die, and had but a few hours more to live. "Is it sure," he asked, "that I am to die?" "Yes," was the answer. "Then," he said, "I have one last request to make; and that is, *that I be buried with my back towards Topsfield!*" His belief in the evil character of Topsfield was certainly strong, even in death; but not stronger than that of a Topsfield man in the full vigor of life, respecting the questionable character of Boxford. He lived near the boundary, and, on turning out his cow to graze by the roadside, gave, as his closing injunction to the boy who was to watch her, a special charge that he must be sure and not let the animal nibble even a mouthful over the Boxford line, for he *didn't want her to give sour milk!* Not having lived either in Topsfield or Boxford at the time these transactions are reputed to have occurred, we must not be held accountable for the positive truth of the stories. We give them as cheaply as we got them, simply remarking that they no doubt correctly illustrate the state of the case at one time. It is really a wonder how two such





very beautiful towns could ever have manifested ill-feeling toward each other. But these things transpired a long time ago. Matters have of course improved since then. If Mr. Coggin, of the one parish, and Mr. McCloud of the other, are permitted to continue their good teachings a time longer, they will no doubt be able to obliterate all trace of the former jealousies, even if they have not already done so.

*Salem Gazette, May 15, 1863.*

The following communication in regard to the formation of the Essex Agricultural Society, was received from the Hon. John W. Proctor.

South Danvers, Feb. 11, 1863.

*Dear Doctor:*—As you seem to have a fancy for overhauling the bones of the Agricultural fathers, who first organized the Essex Agricultural Society; I will state such facts as are within my memory; as you and I have passed the line of *seventy*, after which nothing is to be looked for but sorrow and trouble. I remember a meeting of farmers at the Topsfield Hotel. Among them were, John Adams and Hobart Clark of Andover, Temple Cutler of Hamilton, David Cummins of Salem, Paul Kent of Newbury, James Kimball of Bradford, Elisha Mack of Salem, Orlando March of Newbury, Stephen Mighell of Rowley, Amos Perley of Boxford, Aaron Perley of Boxford, John Peabody of Topsfield, Ichabod Tucker of Salem, Enoch Tappan of Newbury, Stephen Tappan do, Jacob Towne, Jr. of Topsfield, Eleazer Putnam, Danvers, Daniel Putnam, do., Andrew Nichols do., George Osgood of do. Messrs. Clark and yourself are the only survivors of this patriotic band. From them sprung the Society. They organized by voting Timothy Pickering, of Wenham, to be their President. This was in 1818. An act of incorporation was obtained. Mr. Pickering delivered two addresses to his associates. Dr. Nichols delivered the first public address; this was at Topsfield, Oct., 1820. The next address was by Rev. Peter Eaton, of Boxford.

I have been present at every meeting of the Society and of the the Trustees, since its formation, and have always felt a strong interest in its prosperity.

Very truly yours,

John W. Proctor.

*Salem Gazette, May 22, 1863.*





For the Salem Gazette.

## HOME MARTYRS.

BY J. W. PERKINS.

Say not that those alone who go  
To lay their lives on freedom's altar,  
Are the brave patriot souls who know  
The griefs at which our spirits falter,  
For when with humble joy we give  
The praises that their merits win them,  
We know that warm and tender live  
The lives of others bound up in them.

The burdened hearts they leave behind  
Who dying win a soldier's glory,  
Close fast their woe and breaking find  
No pitying voice to tell their story.  
In silent, lonely, withering grief,  
They bow beneath the rod that chastens,  
And feel that earth has no relief  
On which the sinking spirit fastens.

Parents whose sands of life have run  
Well nigh their earth's appointed season,  
Who give their life up in the son  
They send to die in fighting treason,  
Yield him with bursting hearts that speak  
How keenly 'tis that in the giving  
They feel no death their boy can meet  
Is sadder than their lonely living.

Go to your Sabbath halls where crowds  
Have met within those sacred places,  
And see the shadows that like clouds  
Pass o'er the grieving tearful faces,  
When but the softest words let fall  
Of those who've died to save a nation,  
To many an aching heart recall  
The nearness of their application.



Each heaving breast and tearful face  
 Tells the subdued but deep emotion  
 For one that's gone, on whom was placed  
 All that there is of life's devotion.  
 Those tears commingle with the drops  
 That flow as freedom's fresh libation  
 From out the bleeding heart that stops  
 And weeps its life out for a nation.

The pang that purest natures know  
 Is not the shaft that frees the spirit.  
 Rather by far the soul would go  
 Than lose the life that lies most near it.  
 The deadliest of those trying fires  
 That burn out life's intrinsic gladness  
 Is where the heart *itself* expires  
 And leaves the life a night of sadness.

*Salem Gazette, June 26, 1863.*

### THE DRAFT BEGUN.

*District 24—Topsfield.*

John H. Towne  
 Edwin S. Clifford  
 John H. Caldwell  
 Chas J. T. Rea  
 Jos E. Andrews  
 Wm W. Clifford  
 Thos A. Perkins  
 Salmon D. Hood  
 Samuel Bickford jr  
 Ethimer E. Pike  
 J. Porter Gould  
 Henry E. Lake  
 Henry P. Kneeland  
 John A. Peterson  
 Geo H. Johnson  
 Wm Welch jr  
 Jos A. Bixby

Jotham Welch  
 Jas Waters  
 Warren Nichols  
 John F. Averill  
 Benj P. Hobson  
 Alonzo Rea  
 Calvin W. Fuller  
 Edwd H. Ferguson  
 Alonzo Neagle  
 Josiah P. Perkins  
 Wm Gould  
 Waldo Dickinson  
 Geo H. Donaldson  
 Chas A. Peirce  
 Daniel A. Conant  
 Josiah A. Lamson  
 Willard A. Dwinell

*Salem Gazette, July 10, 1863.*





For the Salem Gazette.

## NEVER FORSAKE.

BY J. W. PERKINS

Down the dim future that's lying before us  
Trembling but hopeful we'll tread o'er the way.  
Even though clouds gather round us and o'er us,  
They have a lining more bright than the day.  
For from the mist that seems folding around us,  
Deadly as damps from the Stygian lake,  
Out from the shadows of woe that surround us  
Come the fond accents "I'll never forsake."

Fierce are the foes that arise without number,  
Strewing the path with the bones of the slain,  
Who in their weakness have yielded to slumber,  
Sinking to sleep n'er to waken again;  
Even while he in whose service they dally  
Prays for their pardon and bids them to wait,  
Promising that in the shades of the valley  
He will be with them and "never forsake."

When the wild lightnings are luridly flashing,  
Wreathing their net-work of wrath on the sky,  
Whirlwinds and death-bearing tempests are clashing,  
Showing their wreck as they madly sweep by;  
Calmly through all this assurance is brightening;  
Earthquakes may rock us and tempests may shake;  
Out from the whirlwind, the storm and the lightning  
Comes the "small voice," "I will never forsake."

Firm with the helmet of hope will we gird us,  
Burnished by conflict and furnished by one  
Who in our weakness and languishing heard us,  
Healing our wounds with the blood of his son;  
And from his throne condescends to address you  
In the fond words that he lovingly spake,—  
"I will watch over to comfort and bless you,  
I will be with you and never forsake."





Cold is the flowing of death's turbid river;  
 Fearful we falter beside the dark stream;  
 But as we doubtingly draw back and shiver,  
 Soft o'er its waters there falleth a gleam.  
 Radiant angels of God are descending  
 Down to its brink from the heavenly gate,  
 While with their anthems his promise is blending,—  
 "I will be with you and never forsake."

*Salem Gazette, July 10, 1863.*

TOPSFIELD, *Aug. 8.*—Mr. William Towne, son of Ezra Towne, Esq., of New York, was attacked by a cross bull, last evening, and very severely injured. His life was saved by the presence of mind of Mr. Erastus Clark, who courageously entered the enclosure and attacked the bull, which gave Mr. Towne an opportunity to escape.

Rev. Mr. McCloud preached a sermon on Thanksgiving day upon the war, in which he very ably considered the commencement, causes, and the present condition of the contest. It was an able discourse, and showed that he was thoroughly posted upon the condition of the country. It was well received by an attentive audience. It should be printed for general circulation. P.

*Aug. 10.*—While Mr. Thomas Perley was at supper on Saturday evening, a valuable gold watch and chain were stolen from his shop. Soon police officer Henry Lake was upon the track of the thieves, who were two fellows whom he followed to Beverly, thence to Salem, and there arrested them both. The watch was recovered. They came before the Police court on Monday morning. Thieves had better mind how they come to Topsfield while officer Lake is about, they stand as poor a chance here, as they did in Boston in the days of Constable Clapp.

*Salem Gazette, Aug. 6, 1863.*

IPSWICH.—*Railroad Project.*—We understand that a movement is on foot for a branch railroad from Ipswich to Topsfield to connect with the Boston and Maine, and the legislature will be petitioned to grant a charter to that effect. Some \$20,000 is already pledged towards the stock.—*Beverly Citizen.*

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 6, 1863.*



TOPSFIELD.—*Railroad Accident*.—As the freight train was approaching the station in this town, on the Newburyport and Danvers road, from Boston, on Saturday night, after dark, Warren E. Clark, about 13 years of age, a son of Mr. Erastus Clark, jumped upon one of the cars, with the intention of getting on board; but missing his hold he slipped and fell against the wheel, injuring him so severely that he died on Sunday morning.

*Salem Gazette, Nov. 26, 1863.*

### FOR SALE.

IN TOPSFIELD, a new and convenient COTTAGE DWELLING HOUSE, built especially to order without reference to selling. In all respects convenient—thoroughly painted outside and in, with window blinds. Connected is a good Barn, with a cellar under it; a good Garden, containing about half an acre, on which are several young Fruit Trees. The owner having moved out of town will sell cheap, and make the terms of payment liberal. Enquire of B. P. ADAMS, Topsfield, or DEAN A. PERLEY, Danvers Plains.

*Salem Gazette, Dec. 11, 1863.*

TOPSFIELD, MARCH, 1864.

*To the Editors of the Salem Gazette:*

Inclosed is an "off hand," spoken at a War Meeting in Georgetown, and by request, placed in your hands, which you will please insert in your paper, obliging the solicitors and your obedient servant,

C. H. HOLMES.

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After the speeches we have heard,  
 For me to say a single word  
 About our exigence and war,  
 Expediency and the law,  
 And all of the et cetera  
 That interests the present day,—  
 I say for me to add one word  
 Would be a bore if not absurd,  
 Since all I'd say would be but trites  
 And on these subjects throw no light.





Yet still, I love my country's cause,  
Its institutions and its laws;  
As any man I'd go as far  
To carry on this holy War;—  
For well I know our Union's fall  
Would drown our civil social all;  
And he, if need be, who'd not hie,  
And for his country fight or die,  
I care not whether young or old,  
Of summer's heat, or winter's cold,  
I care not what his business plight,  
Whether called out by day or night,  
Whoever when summoned who'd not go  
And fight against his country's foe.  
Let every such one be, I say,  
Anathama marenatha.  
Aye let him, and 'tis no outburst,  
Let every such one be accurst.  
Treason's defined in our law books,  
Which any one can see who looks,  
To give the foe "a comfort, aid,"  
Or "levy war" of any grade.  
'Tis not the open raid alone,  
But secret aid by which 'tis known.  
So he when summoned who backs down  
The eligible in the town,  
Or he who subject to a draft  
Escapes by some sly trick and craft,  
Perhaps to Canada departs,  
Or stays at home by wily arts;  
Or he the scared ere drafted sneak  
The "Blue-nose" contraband who'd seek;  
Or he who tampers, hinders, mars,  
Any or aught in these our wars,  
A traitor, coward, loon is he,  
Who "comforteth" the enemy!

The other day some parson said,  
"What do you call a 'Copperhead,'  
"A Copperhead I said 's a snake





Living in some foul pool or lake,  
I do not mean our pools or lakes,  
I'd just remark this for our sakes,  
Or else some noisome desert fen  
Far from the haunts of busy men;  
And there he lies concealed all day  
In covert, watching for his prey,  
And if his prey's off guard, asleep,  
Then forward stealthily he'll creep,  
And with his poisonous fangs will dart  
Into his victim's vital part,  
Which having done he'll then retire  
Into his pool, or fen, or mire.  
And so in 'Copper' politics,  
We all that's dark and treacherous fix,  
For instance, this Vallandigham  
Is just about a 'Copper' man.  
We've round here some little coppers,  
Another kind, toady-hoppers,  
Much like "the speckled pig's account,  
Which speckled pig no one could count;  
Or like the flea one thought was there  
And struck, and lo the place was bare;  
Which seeming is, and yet is not;  
Which can be, and can ne'er be caught!"

But says another inquirist,  
"What is an Abolitionist?  
A real, rank, out and outer,  
Garrison and Phillips shouter,—  
That Garrison who said so fell  
Our 'Union was a league of Hell,'  
And he, Lloyd Garrison, would go  
For this our Union's overthrow?"  
I've searched the Universe all round  
E'en to its utmost mete and bound,  
Have sought the things of earth, sea, air,  
To find what could with this compare;—  
Have taken from his dear abode  
The loathsome lizard, slimy toad,  
The owl, the vampire, and the bat,



Extreme of this, extreme of that.  
My search is fruitless, there is none,  
The Abolitionist's alone.  
An Abolitionist's below  
Compare, with any thing I know;  
And may this clique to Hades go—  
The cause of all our present woe!  
Aye every out and outer schism  
Copper, 'Nigger,' Secessionism.  
(Hades as Hell I here define  
Darkness, unseen, from *a eidein*).  
So may they go, those cliques I mean,  
Where they will ne'er again be seen

How far our parties here may go  
In politics, I scarcely know.  
Though some allege their bow is bent  
'Gainst rulers; not the government,  
Which specious reas'ning seems to me  
Like "whipping Satan round a tree."  
Yet now I think in this one case,  
Upon our union's present base,  
We should unite in one great clique,  
One union body politic,  
Where parties are as grains of sand  
To the whole universe of land.  
It matters not a whit to me  
What a man's politics may be;  
(And here I mean by politics  
The little petty, party cliques  
Which are but diff'rent policies  
That may be, or may not be wise,  
But which present upon their face  
The Constitution's union base,  
And not as many men suppose  
Are always governmental foes!)  
Suppose we'd go to Ipswich town,  
A place to us all here well known,—  
Well, you'll go by your travelled road,  
And I'll go round by my abode;—  
What matters it one whit, I say,





If we but reach it either way?  
And so 'tis in our politics  
If they're but true blue Union cliques.  
I said, it matters not to me  
What a man's politics may be,  
Republican or Democrat,  
Extreme or mean of this or that,—  
He who'll to peace resolve this war,  
And bring in every wond'ring star,  
And fix it in the orbit right  
On constellated Union light,  
Whate'er his politics may be  
That is the patriot for me.  
I'm for the Union, that's my song;  
I'm for the Union, right or wrong;  
I'm for the Union heart and voice,—  
That Union erst the people's choice,  
That Union graven in the sky  
For "vox populi, vox Dei."

But now that poser to the wise  
The negro question does arise.  
What with the negro shall we do?  
What course with him shall we pursue?  
Shall Mister Sumner be our guide,  
Establishing State suicide?  
Or would it be a whit more wise  
To millions spend and colonize?  
The "Freedman's lease," once "all the go,"  
Has it or not wrought out a woe?  
Or shall we turn them all out loose,  
As purposed by some gander goose?  
Or take Old Abe's—that honest man—  
The present Presidential plan?  
Or what would be the future state  
Of negroes that we liberate?  
Or can we, by our Union pact  
Just as proposed, do either act?  
What shall we do with this child-man?  
Solve the enigma if you can.





Who'll from this snarl take out the kinks,  
More intricate than pose of sphinx,  
And put an end to this combat,  
"To him I will take off my hat!"  
All of the Border Slave States show  
Slavery has got its fatal blow,  
As half their slaves it may be said  
Are liberated, gone or dead,  
In Louis'ana, Arkansaw,  
Half have skedaddled since the war,  
Leaving the seven remaining states  
In quite a fix by recent dates,  
With full three millions slaves at least,  
Or theirs, by strays, one third increased.  
As slavery's being in our clime  
Is just a question of mere time,  
Shall we, at once stop slavery's heath,  
Or let it die a lingering death?  
Let the South pay the funeral charge?  
Or let the nation pay at large?  
A man once had a drunken wife,  
The plague and torment of his life,  
Who always gave the same replies,  
To all his neighbors kind advice,  
That "he, who had one, only knew  
What with a drunken wife to do."  
Advising neither this nor that  
Still "verbum sapienti sat,"  
(Which means the phrase we anglicise,  
"A word's sufficient to the wise")!  
We're on the eve of great events,  
And we have great encouragements,  
For what has not our country done  
Since first our civil war begun?  
When this took place we scarce had ships  
To well protect our merchant trips,  
And now we can right well compete  
With any French or English fleet;  
And too so strict is our blockade,



We've almost crushed the southern trade.  
This is our fleet that guards our coast,  
But of another fleet we boast,—  
I mean our creek and river craft,  
Which, smaller and of lighter draft,  
Their streams ascending from the main  
The Rebel States have open lain,  
And with our different army corps  
Have brought us to their very doors.  
At first the rebel leaders laughed  
At our strange harum scarum craft,  
And said in words profane and fell  
We could not penetrate their shell;  
But soon they found that Yankee wit  
Was, as in all things, up to it,  
And showed them how the thing was done,  
By victories like Donalson,  
Which made the rebels all down South  
Just laugh the other side the mouth.

I said that since this war arose  
Wonders we'd wrought against our foes.  
We've chased the foe from Tennessee;  
(If not from all, we have at least  
From all, save Tennessean East.)  
Hold Mississippi to the sea,  
With all its places, all its ports,  
Its fortresses, stockades, and forts,  
And all its tributary streams,  
Thus cutting off the Rebel means;  
While Banks now holds the Rio Grand  
And has near stopt their contraband,  
Forming a sort of river trench  
To check the rebels, awe the French;  
And with this all important post  
The N'uces country and its coast.  
We have acquired the bloody ground  
E'en to its utmost mete and bound,  
And to the present day and date  
Large parts of each disloyal state;





And more than all, these same "mud sills"  
Have paid at home their army bills;  
No thanks to England or to France.  
With them we'd like to break a lance;  
Not now, but when we shall dispose  
Of our rebellious Southern foes.  
Still we're not particular,  
At any time we'll give them war.  
As for myself I'd shout joy  
Throw up my hat, cry hip-a-hoy!  
Aye let them come, this foreign scum,  
"I'll bet my life we'd give 'em some"!

Now suppose we all should bustle  
For the next campaign's great tussle,  
With Gilmore thundering in the rear,  
And Banks and Butler there and here,  
With Rosencrans and Grant to Bragg  
Who with their legions him will bag,  
With General Meade to bear the blunt  
Along the "Old Dominions" front,  
And all our num'rous ships afloat,  
With monitor and mortar boat,  
Will hem the rebels round about  
So that these fellows can't get out;  
And as the Devils in the swine  
Were rushed o'er steep, deep in the brine,  
We'll rush our Dev'lish rebel foe  
Into the Gulf of Mexico.

But then we must be well supplied  
With armies large on either side.  
What though our country call for more,  
And thousands stiffened lie in gore,  
And though it millions, billions cost,  
To well supply our conq'ring host,—  
All these are trifles light as air  
To what we are, and what we were,  
Aye what we must, what we will be  
When we declare our people free!





A tribute now to those I'd pay,  
 Who did their country's call obey,  
 And from their homes and friends would hie  
 And for their country fight or die,—  
 To those who fought, to those who bled,  
 And also to the sacred dead!  
 Engraven on their country's heart  
 More lasting than the works of art,  
 Will be their deeds of glory done  
 Transmitted down from sire to son!  
 As when the olympic victor came  
 To his own place, renowned in name,  
 The wall his citizens took down  
 And him in triumph led through town.  
 So when our brave defenders come  
 Victors to their own native home,  
 To them that fought, to them that bled,  
 We'd weave fresh laurels for their head,  
 But more to them who lost their life  
 In this their country's trying strife.  
 We'd say in words of one inspired  
 Whose harp to lofty strains was lyred,—  
 Hail, all hail the patriot's grave,  
 "Valor's venerable bed;  
 Hail the memory of the brave,  
 And the memory of the dead;  
 Honored, thrice honored, be their name;  
 And their rich reward be this,  
 Immortality of fame;  
 Immortality of bliss!"

*Salem Gazette, March 11, 1864.*

#### OBITUARY.

In Topsfield, Mch. 20, of typhoid fever, Miss Rebecka P. Balch, only child of the late John C. Balch, 26 years. Seldom does the death of a young person produce such a general sadness throughout the community. Possessed of a beautiful countenance, delicate sensibilities, a most amiable disposition, and a remarkable conscientiousness, she passed



her childhood and youth free from any stain or reproach; respected by everybody who knew her, and most esteemed and beloved by them who knew her best. Her widowed and bereaved mother even with the abundant sympathy of friends and the supports of heavenly grace, must feel that but few mothers have such a daughter to lose.

#### Valuable Farm in Topsfield, at Auction.

Will be sold at Auction, on TUESDAY, the 29th day of March, current, at 1 o'clock, P. M., on the premises, about one hundred and eight acres of tillage, orchard, pasture, and meadow land, with the dwelling-house, barn, and other buildings thereon, all situated in Topsfield, one half mile from two churches, school, railroad depot, and two stores. The premises being the homestead of the late Ephraim Perkins, deceased, and for quantity of soils, and convenience of location, are not surpassed by any in the vicinity. A rare chance for any one wishing to purchase an uncommonly productive farm.

Persons wishing to examine the premises previous to the sale, will please call on JACOB P. TOWNE, Esq., or EPHRAIM PERKINS, near the premises.

Sale without reserve. Terms at sale.

S. D. HOOD, Auctioneer

Topsfield, March 22, 1864.

*Salem Gazette, March 29, 1864.*

Charles A. Holmes, Esq., of Topsfield, has been authorized to recruit, in connection with Captain Edward T. Pearce, for a company of Heavy Artillery, Mass. Vols., under General Orders No. 14, and will receive a lieutenant's commission when the company is full. It will be worth going a great way to see an officer of lawyer-poet-lieutenant's numerous inches in the army uniform. He has proved his patriotism to be genuine.

*Salem Gazette, May 10, 1864.*

(To be continued.)





EXTRACTS FROM THE DIARY OF REV. WILLIAM  
BENTLEY RELATING TO TOPSFIELD (1787-1819).\*

CONTRIBUTED BY GEORGE FRANCIS DOW.

May 30, 1787. A disagreeable conference with that stupid Breck of Topsfield.

March 11, 1788. The proceedings of the Town of Topsfield are singular. Mr. Breck their minister, a native of Boston, & bred in the occupation of a Cooper, went late to his studies, & being destitute either of address or abilities, & actuated by a zeal, which is opposed to the passions of men, without any attractive qualities to the reason & understanding, has been long in broils. Just exceptions have not been taken to his morals legally considered, but the restlessness of the people induced them to give him a dismissal last January. The proceedings however being irregular, they consented to a mutual Council now setting, of which the following Gentlemen are members.

On the part of Mr. Breck, Mr. Dana & Mr. Frisbie of Ipswich, & Mr. Spring of Newbury Port. On the part of the people, Mr. Cutler of Ipswich, Mr. Parsons of Lynn & Mr. McKeen of Beverley.

Mr. Barnard of Salem chosen mutually. Some time since there was a Council upon the same difficulties, after which they subsided, but they have been increased, lately by a Mr. Cummings, a dismissed Clergymen from New Marlborough & a Mr. Wilds, a sworn Attorney at Law, living in the Town.

\* Rev. William Bentley was the pastor of the East Church, Salem, and his voluminous diary in four volumes has been published by the Essex Institute.





March 31, 1788. The Council at Topsfield resulted, after setting two weeks, unanimously. That tho' the charges against Mr Breck did prove nothing fully against his moral character & only the frailties incident to the most prudent men, yet as the disaffection was great & inveterate, it was recommended that he should ask a dismissal from his charge, provided that in eight weeks the Parish either paid or gave security to his entire satisfaction for the sum of three hundred pounds due upon his settlement & Salary, & fifty pounds in addition to said dues.

On Saturday, Aug. 1, [1789] visited Topsfield, one of the most pleasing towns in our neighborhood. After dinner Mr. Porter with Mrs. Orne went with me to a pond about two miles above the Meeting house on the road to Boxford. At a Mr. Hood's at the upper end of the pond we were entertained with berries, etc. The pond runs nearly with the road in a *supposed* north & south direction 1-2 a mile, and is nearly of equal width throughout, being about a 1-4 of a mile under, in both directions the given distances. The approach to the pond upon the west side is best, but the greater part is swampy. We travelled through the swamp, by which we were prepared without ceremony to wade in for the Pond Lillies. We returned for Tea to Mr. Porter's. The sides of the Pond are very shoal, which makes fishing with angling rods very difficult, & there was no boat at this time in the pond. Mr. Porter caught one Pickerel.

Sept. 22, 1790. At 1-2 past 6 in the morning I went from Salem for Haverhill to attend at a Review of the Regiment, & to visit Capt. Elkins who is superintending the building of a Vessel. I arrived at Mrs. Porter's, Topsfield, about nine miles from Salem & made my first stage. I then passed the meeting house in my left, & turned at the burying ground, 1-4 mile beyond. Keeping the most direct road, avoiding the road leading to Ipswich & Newbury on the right & to Andover, &c. on the left. I passed Topsfield pond on my right & went off from it at the upper end. . . .

April 1, 1891. Set out for Andover by way of Topsfield & Boxford. This road is judged the best for a Carriage tho' the distance be three miles greater in this road than





through Middleton. At Topsfield we passed the Meeting house on our left. The Meeting House on our right would have carried us through the old Parish, Rev'd Holyoke's, to Andover in less distance but worse road. We kept the left hand road, as the most direct, passing several Ponds, Pritchards on the right, 2 miles, Wood's on the left 5 miles, etc. The roads which go out on the right turn off much, . . .

April 2. From the Doctor's at 9 we set out for home. The Stones from Andover have a uniform appearance till we reach Topsfield, especially those used in the walks of the enclosures, being of the appearance of iron mould & as if lately dug from the earth, which upon the first sight of them we imagined. Going & coming we made our Stages at Baker's, Topsfield. I visited Mrs. Porter, a sensible woman, formerly an Allen. I saw my old classmates [Sylvanus] Wildes upon the road, & a Mr. Gould, M. A. We reached Salem at Dinner. At Topsfield hill may be seen the spires of Marblehead.

April 24, 1793. After dinner [at Andover] I returned through Boxford & Topsfield to Salem, which tho' of a distance much greater than on the roads by Reading or Middleton, amply compensated me by the goodness of the roads, the fine farms, the beautiful landscapes, ponds & rivers. At Topsfield I spent an hour in cheerful chat in a wedding house\* were the minister, lawyer, squire, &c. were assembled, the men in one room, & their wives in another, the men having the best room & all the attendance. For my amusement besides anecdotes, &c. I was furnished with several late publications of the ministers in this neighborhood which inform us of the state of this order which has so much influence on society.

Dec. 7, 1795 Left Salem to visit Andover, where my friend General Fiske is confined. Found the guide posts upon the road a great assistance among the cross roads. I took the route of Topsfield in preference to Middleton. . . . Found M<sup>r</sup> Kimball† the celebrated Musician, at his father's. It is his purpose to establish himself in the Law in Maine.

\*Polly Baker and Jacob Brown, married April 11th.

†Jacob Kimball of Topsfield, author of Rural Harmony, Essex Harmony, etc.





Dec. 9. Breakfasted with Col. Lovejoy, & took leave about eleven & returned by Topsfield to Salem. M<sup>r</sup> Kimball gave me some encouragement that he would visit me, & spend one evening with my singers.

May 15, 1796. This Sunday upon account of the painting our Meeting House was shut, *for the first time*, since I have preached in it. I went up to the South Parish in Boxford, preached for M<sup>r</sup> Holyoke who has suffered & is impaired by a paralytic stroke. His Son Samuel, who is eminent for his Musical publications, & his talents in the Instruction of Musical Companies was with us. . . . Upon my return, I remarked that from five towards eight o'clock from Boxford to Putnam's in Danvers, 8 miles, I did not see abroad or at the windows, one person of any age or of either sex.\*

July 25, 1797. Left Salem early for Boxford, in company with Mrs. Porter. We reached Topsfield early enough for Breakfast, & were with Dr. Cleaveland. We then stopped at Rev'd [Asahel] Huntington's where we were kindly received. We then passed to Parson Holyoke's & found his Son & family well.

Nov. 21, 1797. [Doctor Bentley discusses music in Salem and vicinity and records] A few years since a Mr. [Jacob] Kimball & Mr. Johnson taught [music] in Marblehead.

Sept. 21, 1800. . . . A Candidate, Isaac Averill, æt. 34, belonging to Topsfield, & having a call to the ministry in Brookfield as successor to Dr. Fiske of Brookfield, died in Topsfield upon a visit to his friends, & when bearing Letters Missive to the Churches for his Ordination. He was to have been ordained on 1 October.

Sept. 16, 1801. After breakfast we left Haverhill for Salem, the distance being 22 miles but the guide posts very improperly divide the distance. A new Tavern has been opened on the road from Andover in Boxford, & Dr. Cleaveland in Topsfield has converted the mansion house of Porter into a very convenient tavern, below the meeting house in Topsfield. The approach to the Ipswich river is much improved, & the ascent to Topsfield Hill beyond it, going to Salem, is much more easy than formerly. We pursued our

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\*See Topsfield Hist. Colls. Vol. III, p. 18.





course & reached Salem at noon. The whole road from Haverhill to Salem appeared as good as it could be made & no obstructions did remain which art could remove.

Oct. 25, 1802. Mr. Isaac Perkins, who died last week, was born in Topsfield & lived in Boxford, upon the line toward Topsfield. His first wife was a Perkins & by her he had 9 children of whom four survive him. After her death he married a second wife, Mary Curtis of Marblehead, & soon after marriage moved to Salem, 16 years ago. His son Isaac was then in flourishing circumstances, & his son John on the Neck farm. He gave up his land to receive a maintenance from Isaac & had cause to repent it. His widow married first a Gardner, then a Kennedy, & this was her third husband. She has a Son who lost his arm in the war, at Moultonborough, N. H. & a daughter married at Cheshire, N. H.

May 5, 1804. . . . The Newbury Turnpike is in great forwardness. It is passable in the N. E. part of the County. The fate of the new Bridge directs the remainder of the road. The Hotel will be near Humphrey's pond, & provision is already made for the entertainment of travellers near that spot. What a contrast may be soon expected to the present inhospitable appearance of this uncultivated part of our Country. The Bridge over the Ipswich River at Topsfield is much praised. The true distance till the whole course is agreed on cannot be precisely ascertained. 29 miles is the distance named.

June 8, 1804. The Newbury Turnpike progresses, but at great expense. It is said it will be nigher from Salem to Newbury by Topsfield bridge, several miles.

Dec. 8, 1804. A Mr. G. Ward of this town has hired the public House at the New Turnpike in Topsfield.

May 31, 1805. We returned through Andover. . . . In Topsfield they were raising the new Turnpike bridge\* over Ipswich river & for the first time I saw the elegant Inn which is finished for the accommodation of travellers on the Newbury Turnpike.

\*Not the present stone bridge which was built in 1854, but a new wooden bridge.





July 23, 1805. By the kind invitation of Major Joseph Sprague, I took Chaise with him for Haverhill. We passed up the new road to New Mills, Danvers, leaving on our right the Danvers & Beverly Iron Works, upon Porter's river erected last year, & proceeded over Topsfield Hill. We were obliged to leave the Turnpike bridge which was unfinished & passed over Ipswich river upon the old Bridge & then crossed into the New Turnpike Hotel to go to Newbury Port on the Turnpike. We found the turnpike in a very unfinished state after much labour & over a very unequal country & the travelling was not without some apprehensions for our safety. . . . After repeated interviews with our friends at Haverhill, we left the town for Salem. When we reached Topsfield we were informed that one of the workmen on the Turnpike had been killed by the falling of earth & another had suffered an amputation of one leg.

July 15, 1806. By engagement I went for Mess. Joshua & Thomas Balch's, Topsfield, 8 miles from Salem. They have supplied our family with the produce of their farm. The house, which has no claim to notice but from its situation, is on the N. E. Bank of the Ipswich river & at the bend of the river so as most agreeably to exhibit the river in its course. The approach to the river is quick & free from any sediment. We fished with good success taking perch, shiners, breams, pout, &c. The cove or shallows at the bend of the river was rich with the pond lillies, which H[annah] C[rownshield] & H[annah] H[odges] took with great pleasure. The farm of the Two Brothers is about 100 acres. It was in good order, with a young orchard, good grass, & well fenced. After a frugal repast we visited the turnpike & rode 8 miles from the Toll House on Topsfield Hill to the Hotel at Lynnfield, kept by Mr. Lefevre. We had an opportunity of visiting Humphries pond which is now accommodated with a large flat bottomed boat. We found several parties at this place & one party of neighbours from Salem. We had every attention we could ask & after tea returned to Salem by the road from Newhall to the Butt brook in Old Boston road. The Hotel is well furnished with an Ice house. The main building is square & furnishes three good rooms





on the lower floor excepting the bar room. The conveniences of the Outhouses are numerous. I did not pass into the upper parts of the house. The distance from Salem & the retirement & goodness of the Road combine such advantages as appear adapted to give a preference to a Good House in this situation.

Nov. 20, 1806. [At the opening of the New Brick Meeting house in Danvers] Kimball from Topsfield was on the tenor.

Feb. 5, 1808. The Topsfield bill of Mortality for 1807, in this neighbourhood, out of 13 gives 8 above seventy years of age, fr[om] 70 to 80, 3, fr[om] 80 to 90, 4, & one at 90. An uncommon state of long life if it correspond to the common bills of successive years & is not a singular occurrence.

Oct. 15, 1808. . . . The Republicans had a Convention at Ipswich this month & above 70 persons were present. The Opposition have also had one at Topsfield. The results of both have been published. Mr. Pickering, tho' not a member, was at Topsfield on the occasion & very busy. . . . Mr. G[ray] asked one of the rich merchants of the town how he could sign the proceedings at Topsfield when he knew they contained falsehoods.

Feb. 21, 1809. The Convention of Topsfield by the friends of the General Government was numerous. Three hundred attended & they promise the Gov. the aid of 5 thousand, if needed. They are not halfway folks.

July 24, 1809. This day with H. C[rownshield] & H. H[odges] I visited Capt. Elkins at Wenham, Mr. Hood, & dined at Mr. D[avid] Balch at Topsfield. Here we amused ourselves several hours. We then passed on the turnpike to Lynnfield Hotel, now kept by Mr. Lewis. We found nobody travelling upon it. Mr. L. complains of the utter impossibility of maintaining a good house in that place. The Toll house is removed from Topsfield hill to the meeting of the N[ewbury] P[ort] & the Andover Turnpike about 2 1 2 miles beyond Lynnfield Hotel towards Newburyport. We found the Ipswich river very full, having quite overflowed its banks. We could obtain comparatively few of the Nymphaea, but we found in the Garden the *Guajacum Astrum*, Wood of life, or Life of Man. We returned rich in wild flowers.





July 28, 1809. [Doctor Bentley visits Cambridge going by way of the Newburyport turnpike from Topsfield Hotel to Malden bridge.] In Topsfield, on S. side of Ipswich river, Deacon Bixby has a barn 80 feet by 40 which he fills from his own farm. This is in better stile than in Cambridge.

June 21, 1810. . . . The present road from Ipswich to Topsfield goes the greater part of a mile southerly from Linebrook, or fire town parish, in which Mr. [George] Leslie formerly & now Mr. Gilbert T. Williams is minister. The brook on the division gave the first name, the woods, the best part of it, gave the vulgar name by which it is yet known.

Oct. 30, 1811. After many purposes & disappointments, I left Salem with my H. C[rownshield] to see Line Brook vulg[arly known as] Firetown, a section of Ipswich, Topsfield, & Rowley at the acute angle in which they meet. Never did I find so many opinions about the distance & the course of any place. I took my own way & went to Topsfield meeting house. There at a tavern I found an intelligent woman who had lived in the neighbourhood. She directed me to proceed on the Haverhill road, leaving the road to Ipswich on my right hand, till I had passed two miles, then to take the right hand, & about half a mile from the meeting house, or four miles from Topsfield Meeting, I turned to the left & came to Line Brook Meeting House. I visited the Minister whose house is near the Meeting house upon rising ground west of it. Upon my return through Ipswich, as the road near the Meeting House went to Rowley, I returned the half mile into the former road from which I had turned & continued towards Ipswich & in about a mile I crossed Newbury turnpike at a Tavern kept by one Foster\* in Line Brook, about three & an half miles from Topsfield hotel, so that the best road from Salem is by Topsfield Hotel to Fos-

\*Foster by trade was a blacksmith, by business a landlord. His sign hanging near the tavern door read as follows:

"I shoe the horse, I shoe the ox;

I carry the nails in my box

I make the nail, I set the shoe,

And entertain some strangers, too."





ter's tavern or the cross road at that place. We continued on towards Ipswich, Line Brook extending nearly two miles beyond the turnpike towards Ipswich, taking a left hand as we were leaving Line Brook & then passing over the Sands we entered Ipswich near the bury[ing] ground above the Old Meeting House & proceeded into Ipswich upon the Newbury lower road till we reached Treadwell's tavern on the Hill, at bell ringing, half past twelve & at Treadwell's we dined.

The general appearance of Line Brook is poor but more so at the point towards Topsfield & Boxford at which we entered. We saw only one orchard & that an old one, from Topsfield till we reached the Meeting House. Most of the lands were unenclosed & barren & the swamps were of no use being filled with small pines, small birch & alders with hummocks. Away from the road some farms on favorite spots made a little better appearance. As we approached the Turnpike some farms were in better condition but we soon passed to the moving sands which lay between Ipswich & this parish. It is generally considered as the poorest division of Essex. As it is the last place I have visited, it is the most destitute of the means of enriching a farmer. And if the tastes of the people can be guessed by the rhymes on Foster's sign, their minds are of higher improvements than their barren country. I found the Minister [Gilbert T. Williams] to be a Son of Revd. Simon Williams of Windham, a part of Londonderry in New Hampshire. Joseph McKean D. D. who was settled at Beverly, & afterwards first President of Bowdoin College, told me that his Father was his Preceptor but with all the roughness of a Presbyterian in Scotland, of which he gave me some very powerful anecdotes. Revd. Jacob Herrick of Durham, Maine, gave me the history of his interment in the Irish way which indicated into what state of improvement he had brought his flock in the wilderness. From the Son, who is named after the celebrated Gilbert Tennent, so well known as the Hero in talents in the Days of Whitefield in New England, 1742, I had the following information by his records which he produced. Line Brook had not a separate house of worship till the present house was erected in 1742 & the pulpit was finished





in 1743. They had not formed a Church till 1749 at the time of the ordination of the well known George Leslie. In this covenant were engaged George Leslie the Pastor, & the following Brethren bearing the family names of Metcalf, Davis, Hibbert, Pike, Burpee, Abbot, Tenney, Perley, Smith, Fiske (John), Chaplain, Jewett. Revd. G. Leslie married a d. of Burpee. Leslie continued in his charge till 1779, thirty years & then from complaints of poverty & want of adequate support he had a dismissal & recommendation with a good character to Washington in New Hampshire, where he was installed in 1780, & where he continued till he died. His manners were singular but Mr. Thayer the Catholic convert, told me his mind was powerful.

The place to which Mr. Leslie removed is back of Walpole & Charleston on Connecticut river, & on the third range of towns. Dr. Belnap had his installation in 1779, but he left Line Brook in that year & his wife's dismissal is in 1780. Formerly Campdon. After Mr. Leslie left, Revd. Joseph Mottey, who settled at Lynnfield in 1783, had an invitation to settle but did not accept & in 1783 Mr. Joshua Spaulding had an invitation but he came & settled at the Tabernacle Church in Salem in 1786 & has since removed to the Branch Church after a separation in 1802. Revd. Gilbert Tennent Williams was ordained in Line Brook on 5 Aug. 1789. He has a wife & four sons & one amiable daughter. He has a stipulated salary of 75 pounds or 250 dollars & the rest he supplies with his industry by the aid of a rigid economy. According to Dr. Belnap, Simon Williams the Father, settled at Windham, New Hampshire, in 1766. Dr. B. obtained no account of the population of the parish in which he was settled. The son settled in Windham, 23 years after in Line brook. It probably was during his tarry in the State or Colony of New Yersey that he contracted his friendship for G[ilbert] T[ennent] after whom he named his son, as this same G. T. had at that time great influence in that quarter, as the publications in that quarter will prove. Among the names of the first members of the Linebrook Church I found Burpe as the only one yet unknown to me. But upon my return to Salem Capt. B. Ward, one of the Assessors, told me that a tradesman of that name had been in Salem for





several years & had been reported on their list by that name working in Court street. It proves however that Burpe is the Christian name of one Ames in Salem. He tells me that his father belonged to Rowley & his Grandmother's name was Burpe & that he bore his father's name Burpe Ames.

April 25, 1813. . . . Last Thursday night died Revd. Asahel Huntington, æt. 53, Pastor of the church at Topsfield. He was as well as usual on the Saturday proceeding. Appeared to have as he called it a cold which terminated in fever & death. I have not had the progress or character of his disease. When I first knew Topsfield, the Pastor was John Emerson, Revd., in 1774. He died in 1776 & in 1779 was succeeded by Daniel Breck of Boston, Brother to the celebrated merchant of Boston of that name & afterwards of New York. Mr. Emerson had amassed a great landed estate which his children have understood to kept & while he was not distinguished in his profession, enjoyed an independence which kept him from contempt. Mr. Breck had great zeal, but less knowledge of men, & without talents or address had not so happy a course. Dissentation of the most trifling nature soon begun, & ended in a separation in 1788. It became doubtful whether another election would soon take place, but a choice & settlement was made in 1790, of the lately deceased pastor. He was from Connecticut. Of very sedate manners, constant reserve, but of a mild & not sullen temper & he has preserved a wonderful tranquility ever since till his death. He has a family of which I know nothing excepting I was lately in the company of one of his daughters at James Stearns who married a grand-daughter of the late Rev. John Emerson & a descendant of the old Gov. Bradstreet, whose lands in Topsfield are held by his family, who informs an attachment to Rev. Mr. H. is his real hospitality to an unknown Gentleman from Conn. bearing my name, & being a preacher, who was taken sick at his house. He did all the duties of a father & benefactor. Our Lodge made a payment of his account, but it was far short of an equivalent for his services. Mr. Bentley originally from the R. Island branch of our family, was educated by an Uncle





then dead, & had no resources but in his virtues & his profession. The more full history of Topsfield & of the deceased I must obtain from other persons.

May 23, 1813. Sunday. Note. James W. Stearns & wife, death of her Grandfather at Topsfield, Thomas Emerson, æt. 75. One of the richest land holders, & farmers in Essex. He was a son of the Revd. John Emerson who died in 1775, having been nearly half a Century in the ministry. He probably succeeded Mr. Capen, before whom were Mr. Hobert & Gilbert. The great wealth of Thomas Emerson was proverbial, & he was well known by letting Cows for the season to the Inhabitants of Salem. A Sermon was delivered at his funeral by Revd. Mr. Eaton of Boxford. His posterity are rich & respected & so was the Grandfather, excepting the jealousy of his riches. The Selectmen expressed to the family a wish that a sermon might be preached at his funeral.

May 15, 1814. . . . Mr. Hubbard's son, late Minister of Newbury Newtown, is preaching at Topsfield. He possesses some of the disquiet spirit of his father. Topsfield is the last place I should assign to him.

Sept. 27, 1814. . . . This day by invitation I went to Topsfield with Mr. James Stearns, whose wife was a daughter of the 40 farm Emerson, g. son of John Emerson, a former pastor of Topsfield who died in 1774. The intention was to visit the Lands of the last Old Charter Governour Simon Bradstreet, one of whose descendants was the wife of Mr. Emerson, & upon whose lands she was born. We dined at Mr. Emerson's who was absent but with his family handsomely. I found myself on the spot which I first visited in 1773, on which Revd. John Emerson lived, & part of his house was united to the large house of Mr. Emerson, his son, in which the Aged Pastor lived, part of which projected had been in the past year taken away. It is N. E. from the Meeting house upon the plain. Above it is the house of the minister before Mr. Emerson as you ascend the hill going eastward, the house of the Revd. Mr. Capen. It is said each of them were in the ministry above 40 years. This house of Mr. Capen is nearly in its primitive state & is the place to receive the families of the men who labour on the lands around, Mr. Emerson keeping 600 acres in cultivation





& use around him. Mr. Capen's house is of two stories with jutting second stories & a very sharp & high roof. The beams & joice are naked within but the floor timbers are less than usual at that time of building. The study & lodging room of Mr. Emerson, left at the building of the New House, are now taken away, but the remains within the line of the new House discover the primitive style of building. In going from the Meeting House we passed to the neighbourhood of the Newbury turnpike Hotel & pursued upon the Turnpike our route for a small distance to what is called the dry Bridge to distinguish it from the bridge over the river not a mile below. We passed by this passage upon a country road under the Turnpike road, & came to the house of Mr. Sylvanus Wildes, who was of the same class with me at Cambridge & graduated in 1777. He prepared himself for the bar & took the oaths, but has not entered into practice. He is a long talker & a friend of singular opinions, but has been much confined by the nervous affection of his wife. He was engaged with his flax, & with little change from time. Before his door he had a little inclosure of Quince trees, which attracted more notice as the trees were laden with fruit, while a general want of fruit is the complaint of the season. These fruits are usually preserved in sugar. In the want of sugar, cut and dried. After a few words about his family & children around him, we left his small farm & continued on the country road about a mile, & then leaving it turned to the left upon the farm road to the Bradstreet lands. The whole of these were thought to include about 300 acres, & we found upon the height of land the house of Mr. Samuel Bradstreet, the Brother of Mrs. Emerson who accompanied us. The situation was delightful, but this elevation had been chosen by the heirs, & not by the Patriarch who first came into possession. I found the cellar of his house, like that of Gov. Endicott, on the acclivity of the hill so that the present mansion house is on the top of the hill northwest of the Old Mansion which was sheltered by the hill & had before it a small pond which has not yet quite disappeared. Near the Cellar we found a very ancient pear tree, which had stood above one hundred years, tho' probably wanting fifty years of the Age of the Endicott. It had been grafted four times





with four different kind of fruit. The native fruit was still on it & this was a small, round & hard pear for winter of which I took a specimen. We then passed to the river which in a very winding course passes south of the house at the distance of one quarter of a mile & about equal distance from the location of both mansions. We visited the banks of the river which had fallen, but has been uncommonly swollen by the rains so that the hay of the meadows will probably be lost this season. This river at this place is the boundary line between Topsfield and Hamilton formerly, & till lately part of Ipswich, from which settlement the river is named as the place at which it empties. On the opposite side while on the banks of the river the view beyond the meadows is terminated by a swamp three miles in length & about one mile in width north & south, over which the land holders pass when frozen in winter to Wenham. Of the original Bradstreet possession about 70 acres were meadow exclusive of the woodlands near the river called Islands. The wood lands we know daily decrease & change much from the first appearance of the country. As we proceeded by the pasture bridle road towards the top of the hill on which the house stood, we saw on the S.W. many turf houses which had been erected formerly & were now again occupied in preparing that convenient article of fuel on the other side of the river. At the house we had an extensive prospect. A little south of east at a few miles distance appeared Hamilton Meeting House. About south was to be seen over the swamp Wenham Meeting House & west of south the Meeting House of upper Beverly. The high lands of Danvers & Topsfield were on the west, till the eye passed to Topsfield on the N. W. On the eastern quarter were the high lands of Topsfield & Hamilton called Third Hill, Towne's, &c. near which runs the line of Hamilton. The Swamp lays in Hamilton & Wenham. As the family were not prepared for the visit I could only leave enquiries in good hopes of seeing the deeds, papers, & ancient books & monuments still to be found among them. On the south east was a house occupied by another branch of the family & in their lots was the site of the old mansion on the south eastern side of the hill then a corn field. Upon our return we took the County road





that was on our right from the dry bridge & turning to the left continued till we reached the turnpike & then where we entered it near the hotel, we passed to our former place of visiting & taking tea, in the evening returned by the usual road to Salem.

Dec. 13, 1814. One curious occurrence of the past week deserves notice. Capt. Thomas Emerson, son of a Minister in Topsfield, a rich farmer in Danvers, & Brother to the richest landholder of the same name in the state, living in Topsfield, died evidently in a state of intoxication. He was an excellent Agricultural & had amassed a great interest. He purchased the farm of the eminent Merchant Richard Derby senior, who died in 1783, & exhibited the best cultivated Cornfield & the largest I had seen in Essex. I visited last season & saw land rendered fruitful, which had been abandoned to Wood waxen. The characteristic error of the man was intemperance of the grossest kind. Not associated with any corrupt habits but the mere love of intoxication. He returned to his family in his usual manner, & by a good wife was led to his bed, & there lodged till he should recover. After a few hours his wife entered his bed chamber to assist him to undress, & found him expiring, & he soon died. The funeral ceremonies proceeded as usual & the body was brought to the grave. Scruples then arose about interment. The body was brought back to the house. The tale I have from the man who watched two nights with the body after its return. No life came & the body was deposited in the grave. The fear was strengthened by the body appearing to undergo no change during this time, & this state of the body was attributed to the excess of spirituous liquors.

Dec. 25, 1814. Of the meeting at Topsfield to associate to urge the letter of a Jewish Sabbath & to prohibit all passing from town to town on the Sunday we hear little. A beautiful extract from Jeremy Taylor was published in the Salem Gazette to prevent this town from being caught in the snare. I read the Law as desired & begged my tything man, who is my Sexton, to see that no children or other persons assembled around the Meeting House in time of service with a wish to interrupt no person who should pass peaceably along.





Jan. 1, 1815. Sunday. Note. James Stearns & wife, a Son baptised in public. The Topsfield affair was no jest. The account has not been published in Salem but elsewhere. It says a Convention of 43 members from 13 towns was held 21 Dec. John Heard, Esq. of Ipswich was chosen Moderator & Revd. S. Worcester of Salem head of a Committee called Standing, till last Wednesday of April next. The first resolution is in app. of Sabbath Law, second of the zeal of the occasion, 3d to influence choice of Tything men, 4 recommending meetings to give them support, 5 election of Tything men, 6 recomm. perseverance. Revd. Mr. Edwards of Andover chosen to meet Middlesex convention in this month. Thus under the garb of religion another assoction is formed for poltical purposes. The late publication in the Salem Gazette of a paragraph from Jer. Taylor brought some remarks which tended to set aside the judgment of Jer. Taylor & to escape from the argument. An answer confirming from Foster the sentiment & proving the inaccuracy of the charge, brought a second reply more weak than the first. The Orthodox here are not the Nortons & Corbets of the first generation, but impudent fellows who put scandal for argument. The public mind is so well guarded that it is presumed the scheme will not be adopted in Essex as not one clergyman of reputation, as I reckon, did appear at the Convention. I wish that the argument had been put upon its proper basis that the Christian day of worship is not of ecclesiastical or of divine right, but of legal right derived from precedent, & to be governed by the sense & benefit of the Community in which it may be adopted.

Jan. 21, 1816. . . . Our Sabbath or Sunday folks are determined to try again at Topsfield. The present object is to prepare to execute the laws which when obsolete should be repealed & not left to be employed by fanatics for the vexation of quiet citizens.

Feb. 14, 1816. . . . Topsfield Hotel Sunday Convention recommended to the towns of Essex to apply to the Gen. Court relative to Sunday Laws. Worcester & Parish appeared at their head unaccompanied with any other person of good or ill name or influence. We have heard of no such pet. in this County. Some are notified as received in the day Bill





of the Court & the Law has been committed. At the end of the session we shall see what is done. The matter of Holy time is not yet settled, no not even at Newbury port, by superstition upon the throne of its glory.

Apr. 12, 1817. . . . Upon my return I met John Prince, Esqr, & with him I rode to his Brother in Law's Dudley Bradstreet, who married John P's sister, second wife, having 11 children. He has a farm on the edge of Danvers, towards Topsfield, of 175 acres & still holds part of the old Bradstreet farm in Topsfield belonging to the Gov. near the Ipswich river. We were kindly received & returned the 7 miles to Salem & were in town at 7 o'clock.

Feb. 6, 1818. . . . An invitation is given to the friends of Agriculture in Essex, to meet at Topsfield on 16 instant to form an Agricultural Society for the County of Essex in aid of the Mass. Agricultural Society.

May 4, 1819. William Perkins was one who had liberty to settle at Ipswich before April, 1633 & was one of the 12 who went with John Winthrop to Ipswich of that year. There is a tradition that he officiated at Topsfield, before it had an ordained minister, as a teaching elder & performed as a minister. Gilbert was ordained at Topsfield, 9 Nov. 1663 or thirty years after W. P. came. Thomas Perkins, late merchant of Salem, it is said has made his will granting a large sum to the Town of Salem, which he holds by a Debt of the Town. He lives [in Topsfield] on the road just on the descent towards Ipswich river passing from Danvers,

Oct. 5, 1819. [Doctor Bentley drives to Lynnfield]. We were hospitably received & after dinner left for Ipswich. I could find no person who had passed in this direction. I passed on the North Reading road & then went down by Procter's to the Turnpike, took coffee at Topsfield hotel & after passing the second mile stone about one mile & a quarter crossed to Ipswich & found a most pleasant ride upon the northern bank of the river into Ipswich making the whole distance from home 26 miles. . . . A town clerk at Topsfield tells me of a W. Perkins as their first minister but not ordained. Passing the meadows at Ipswich on my right was Stone's meadow & on my left Reedy meadow, in which the flags were cut for use. After leaving the turnpike at Topsfield for Ipswich pass Hum river, then another stream.



Oct. 17, 1819. . . . Topsfield remains vacant since Huntington's death and is not near to a settlement. The Perkins' insist that W. Perkins was their first minister in their early history, tho they have no pretence that he was ordained.

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### REV. DAVID PEABODY.

1805-1839.

### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES AND CORRESPONDENCE.

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David Peabody,\* the youngest son of John and Lydia (Balch) Peabody, was born at Topsfield, Mass., April 16, 1805. He was employed more or less upon his father's farm till he was fifteen or sixteen years of age; but as his physical constitution was thought to be not well suited to agricultural life, and as his early tastes were more than ordinarily intellectual, and he had a strong desire for a collegiate education, his father consented to gratify him; and, in the spring of 1821, he commenced the study of Latin at Dummer Academy, Byfield. The same year his thoughts were earnestly directed to the great subject of his own salvation, though he did not feel so much confidence in the genuineness of his religious exercises as to make a public profession of his faith until three years afterwards. In 1824, he united with the Congregational Church in his native place, and in the autumn of the same year joined the Freshman class in Dartmouth College.

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\*This biographical sketch written by Rev. Daniel L. Furber, D. D., is taken from Sprague's "Annals of the American Pulpit."





By severe labor during his collegiate course, he overtasked his naturally feeble constitution, and thus prepared the way for much future debility and suffering. He was graduated in 1828, on which occasion he delivered the valedictory oration.

After spending a few weeks in recruiting his health at his father's, he became, for a short time, assistant editor of the "New Hampshire Observer," at Portsmouth, but before the close of 1828 he entered the Theological Seminary at Andover. In the spring of 1829, he accepted an invitation to take charge of a Young Ladies' Select School at Portsmouth; but in the autumn of 1830 his declining health obliged him to relinquish it, and to seek a Southern residence. He went to Prince Edward County, Virginia, and secured a situation as teacher in an excellent family,—that of Dr. Morton, and at the same time entered the Union Theological Seminary, of which the Rev. John H. Rice was the founder and principal professor. He remained in the family of Dr. Morton till he had completed the prescribed course of study, and was licensed to preach by the West Hanover Presbytery in April, 1831; after which he supplied the church at Scottsville for six months. So acceptable were his services, that the congregation would gladly have retained him as their pastor; but, as he preferred a Northern residence, he declined all overtures for a settlement, and returned to New England, with his health much improved, in 1832. In November of the same year he was ordained pastor of the First Church in Lynn, Mass. In September, 1834, he was married to Maria, daughter of Lincoln Brigham, then of Cambridge, but formerly of Southborough, Mass. In January, 1835, he was attacked with a severe hemorrhage, which greatly reduced his strength, and obliged him for a season to intermit his labors. Finding the climate unfavorable, he reluctantly came to the determination to resign his pastoral charge, with a view of seeking an inland home, when his health should be sufficiently recruited to justify him in resuming the stated duties of the ministry.

Accordingly, in the spring of 1835, he was dismissed, after which he spent some time in traveling for the benefit of





his health, at the same time acting as an agent for the Massachusetts Sabbath School Society. His health now rapidly improved, and on the 15th of July succeeding his dismissal, he was installed as pastor of the Calvinist Church in Worcester.

The change of climate seemed, for a time, highly beneficial, and had begun to induce the hope that his health might become fully established; but, in the winter of 1835-36, he was prostrated by another attack of hemorrhage, which again clouded his prospects of ministerial usefulness. In the spring of 1836, his health had so far improved that he resumed his ministerial labors and continued them through the summer; but in September, his symptoms again became more unfavorable, and he determined, in accordance with medical advice, to try the effect of a sea voyage and a winter in the South. Accordingly, he sailed in November for New Orleans; and, on arriving there decided on going to St. Francisville, a village on the Mississippi. Here he remained during the winter, preaching to both the white and colored population, as his strength would allow. In the spring, he returned to his pastoral charge, with his health considerably invigorated. He labored pretty constantly, though not without much debility, until the succeeding spring (1838), when he found it necessary again to desist from his labors, and take a season of rest. In company with a friend, he journeyed through a part of Vermont and New Hampshire, and on reaching Hanover, the day after Commencement, was surprised to learn that he had been appointed professor of Rhetoric in Dartmouth College. Conscious of his inability to meet any longer the claims of a pastoral charge, and hoping that his health might be adequate to the lighter duties of a professorship, he could not doubt that the indications of Providence were in favor of his accepting the appointment. He did accept it, and shortly after resigned his charge at Worcester, amidst many expressions of affection and regret on the part of his people, and, in October following, entered on the duties of his professorship.

The change of labor proved highly beneficial, and during the winter of 1838-39, he enjoyed a degree of health which





he had not known for many previous years. In March, he was so much encouraged in respect to himself that he remarked to a friend that he thought God would indulge the cherished wish of his heart and permit him again to labor as a minister. But another cloud quickly appeared in his horizon which proved ominous of the destruction of all his earthly hopes. In April following, he suffered from an attack of pleurisy, which was followed by lung fever; and, though he so far recovered as to be able to attend to his college duties till the September following, it became manifest to all that his disease was, on the whole, advancing towards a fatal termination. He died at the age of thirty-four years and six months, on the 17th of October, 1839. His last days were rendered eminently tranquil by the blessed hopes and consolations of the gospel. His funeral sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Lord, President of Dartmouth College, and was published. He left no children.

Mr. Peabody's published works are a brief "Memoir of Horace Bassett Morse," 1830; a Discourse on "The Conduct of Men Considered in Contrast with the Law of God," 1836; and a "Sermon on the Sin of Covetousness, Considered in Respect to Intemperance, Indian Oppression, Slavery," etc., 1838; "Patriarch of Hebron, or the History of Abraham" (posthumus), 1841."

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FROM THE REV. SAMUEL G. BROWN, D. D.

Dartmouth College, July 25, 1856.

My Dear Sir: It gives me great pleasure to send you my impressions of Professor Peabody, though others could write with more authority. I knew him in college, where he was my senior. He belonged to a class of great excellence, and was honorably distinguished throughout his college course for general scholarship, diligence, fidelity, and great weight of personal influence, in favor of all things "excellent and of good report." His character was mature and his mind already well disciplined when he entered the class, and education had perhaps less to accomplish for him in the matter





of elegant culture than for almost any one of his associates. Hence there was not the same conspicuous progress in him as in some others. Yet at the time of graduation he stood among the first, as is indicated by the fact that he was the orator of one of the literary societies, and was selected by the Faculty to deliver the valedictory oration at Commencement. In every department of study he was a good scholar, —in the classical, moral, and rhetorical departments, pre-eminent. As a preacher, he was distinguished for a certain fullness and harmony of style, justness in the exposition of doctrine, and weight of exhortation. He was prudent without being timid, and zealous without being rash; eminently practical, though possessing a love of ideal beauty, and a cultivated and sensitive taste, and as far removed from formalism on the one side as from fanaticism on the other. Dignified and courteous in manner, he was highly respected by all his acquaintances, and while a pastor, greatly esteemed and beloved by his people. His fine natural qualities were marred by few blemishes, and his religious character was steadily and constantly developed year by year. Grave, sincere, earnest, he went about his labors as one mindful of his responsibility, and as seen under his "great Task-master's eye." Indeed his anxieties outran his strength, and he was obliged to leave undone much that was dearest to his hopes. The disease to which he finally yielded had more than once "weakened his strength in the way" before he was finally prostrated by it. The consequent uncertainty of life had perhaps imparted to him more than usual seriousness, and a deep solicitude to work while the day lasted. He performed the duties of a professor in college but a single year, and that with some interruptions. No better account of the general impression of his life on those who knew him best can be given than in the language of a sermon preached at his funeral by the Rev. Dr. Lord.

"What his private papers show him to have felt in the presence of his God was made evident, also, in his social and official intercourse. Intelligent, grave, dignified; conscientious in all his relations, from the student upwards to the teacher, the pastor, the professor; nothing empty as a scholar, nothing unsettled or inconsistent as a divine, noth-





ing vague or groundless as an instructor; sincere, generous, honorable, devout; keenly sensitive in respect to the proprieties and charities of life; warm in his affections, strong in his attachments, stern in his integrity; above the arts of policy, the jealousies of competition, the subserviency of party spirit, and simply intent upon serving God, in his own house, and in all his official ministrations, he was one of the few who are qualified to be models for the young, ornaments to general society, and pillars in the church of God."

Hoping, dear sir, that this hasty and imperfect sketch may be of some trifling service in commemorating a good man, who deserves something much better,

I am very truly your obedient friend and servant,  
S. G. BROWN.

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FROM THE REV. JOHN NELSON, D. D.

Leicester, July 23, 1856.

My dear Sir: My personal acquaintance with the Rev. Mr. Peabody was limited to the period during which he was the pastor of the Central Church, in Worcester. While he held that office, I had, I may say, an intimate,—certainly a most happy acquaintance with him. I often saw him in his own house, and often received him as a welcome guest in mine. I often met him in the association to which we both belonged and in ecclesiastical councils.

I remember him as having a rather a tall and commanding figure, and a benign countenance, beaming with intelligence, especially when engaged in conversation. This appearance, however, was modified by constant illness. No one could be with him without receiving the impression that he was a scholar, as well as a deep and accurate thinker.

The few sermons which I heard him read, or deliver from the pulpit, were of a high order, distinguished for both accuracy of style and power of thought. They were clear, methodical, and highly eloquent. It was my own impression, and I know it was the impression of some of his most distinguished hearers, that he was among the best preachers of his





time. In ecclesiastical councils he was shrewd, discerning, and wise. As a friend, he was always reliable. His moral character was not only high, but well balanced, and marred by no inconsistencies.

It is presumed that no one will dissent from the statement that, during the few years he was in Worcester, by his intelligence, his manly virtues, his kindness of heart, his active labors for the advancement of Christ's kingdom, and his ability as well as faithfulness as a preacher, he greatly commended himself, not only to the people of his immediate charge, but to the whole community in which he labored.

Affectionately yours,

JOHN NELSON.

Hanover, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, 1824.

Ever dear parents—

I sat down last saturday night soon after my arrival in this place, in order to write you a letter, and did cover three pages with a sort of narrative of my journey &c; but as I have more now to write in addition to what I then wrote, than I can get on the remainder of that sheet, I take a new one, and will give you some account of my journey in fewer words, & tell you of my success since.—As to the journey, expence, &c=after leaving Topsfield Hotel, we rode on slowly through N. Rowley, (the rout of Manning's stage,) where at Bradstreet's tavern I paid my fare to Haverhill which was 50 cts. double what I expected. Saw Esq. Greenough at Kimball's tavern in Bradford, who informed me that Jeremiah would not go till Monday—today; probably because there would be 3 day's board more to pay for if he had gone friday—Stopped in Haverhill at half past 10, went and had my watch-chain mended which took about 10 minutes and cost 12½ cts; bought in the mean time a little Sal-Aeratus and some other small articles, paid fare and set out for Concord at 11 in company with 2 ladies, 1 very old gentleman and 6 rather young men, one of whom was a Mr. Chadwick, member of Dartmouth College, and cousin to Jeremiah Greenough. He belongs to Bradford West Parish;





I had never seen him before, but we soon got acquainted, and he was very kind & attentive all the way, & has been in assisting me here. Another of our passengers was a sort of wag rather accomplished and extremely witty, & he kept us laughing half way to Concord. All along through Atkinson and Hampsted the orchards, which are numerous there, were bending almost ready to break with fruit. The land above these towns is rough, craggy and covered considerably with wood. At about 3 in the afternoon, having eaten nothing since leaving home but a little gingerbread and 2 apples in Haverhill, I with nearly all the company except the old man who had left the stage, took dinner in a corner of Candia at Andersons' I think. The dinner was excellent except the cider which was, we judged, about 21 years old, at least old enough to be free, and the water, which was ten times worse. Kept on moderately as the roads were bad, having been washed and gullied in the late rains, changed horses once, came in sight of Concord about sunset, crossed the ferry some ways beyond the remains of the bridge, which was principally destroyed and carried off in last Spring's freshet, and found myself landed with Mr. Chadwick at Hutchins's tavern at about 7 in the evening. The evening being fine and the moon shining brightly, we walked a little around the village, viewed the State House, a beautiful edifice of stone, not so large as Boston State House but far more elegant, returned, concluded to take no supper, and having paid for our night's lodging, retired at 9, occupying one chamber, but 2 beds. Slept soundly till nearly 4 Saturday morning, when we both waked, ourselves, and, knowing we were to start at 4, and a light being brought into our chamber by the good folks of the house, we arose; but in dressing I had a faint turn which continued some time and alarmed me not a little. It was probably occasioned by my eating so scantily the day before, and in connection with that, rising so early. However it soon went off after walking out and taking the stage, we started without any refreshment at all at 15 minutes past 4, the morning being cloudy, foggy, and chilly, and rather giving signs of a snow storm. Rode on, passed Boscawen—(pronounced Bosquine)—meeting house about sunrise. Here are many excellent farms and





fine, fruit-bending orchards. Breakfasted at Salisbury (16 miles from Concord,) at 7, on broiled beef-steak, roasted chicken, warm cakes, butter, cheese, cider and coffee. Sat and warmed ourselves at a blazing stove, which we felt quite reluctant to change for a cold, open stage. However—paid our fare to Hanover, and started with a new set of horses at half past 7. Proceeded slowly through woods and bogs a considerable distance, now and then finding a house, which seemed to have strayed away from the civilized world, built upon, and surrounded by scarce anything but rocks. Stopped at Enfield, at noon, the weather having grown warmer and brighter, the driver dined, (but we took nothing,) changed our old pacing horses for a set of beautiful red ones, which looked as if they were going to College, and started off for Hanover in earnest. In Enfield which is generally rich & handsome as to its land, is a Shaker village, neat and regular as a piece of painting, situated on the south side of a beautiful pond 5 miles long, and overhung on the north side by a thick, heavy wood. Passed, after leaving this village, or rather these villages, for there are three divisions, through 2 or 3 dark, woody, uncomfortable looking towns, & found ourselves landed safe and sound in the midst of Hanover village, in front of the College, at half past 3 in the afternoon. Distance from Haverhill to Concord 40 miles; from Concord to Hanover, 54 miles. There were some little expenses which we bore amongst us, which, as my part, stating largely, I shall call 25 cts. After arriving, friend Chadwick took me to his room where I stopped a few minutes, then went in search of a boarding house. The first direct application I made was at Mrs. Barton's who takes boarders but has no rooms to spare. After I had made known my business & circumstances, as I was without a bed, she told me her terms which are 9 and 9 pence per week for boarding and washing, and told me she would accommodate me with a room, bed, and whatever I wanted for one week at that price, but could not longer. I was going to look farther, but she pressed me so hard, engaged without more inquiry, and now I like her so well that I shall continue with her this term. She resembles widow Peabody of Salem very much, is extremely kind and obliging, and seems, in every respect,

myself renewedly to Him.





a mother. She has now 5 boarders besides myself, and expects as many more. Her table is excellent, and her house is considered one of the best, though by no means the highest, for boarding in the village;—but few if any board lower of any respectability. I have engaged a chamber very pleasant and convenient in a house directly opposite Mrs. Barton's at 16 dollars the year. Perhaps you may think it a great price, but I can find no chamber which will answer for two tenants rented much if any less, except the chambers in a large brick building near by, which are very noisy, and the College chambers which are full of vermin, & cold and shattered besides. As I have engaged a chamber you will of course conclude that I have been admitted a member of College. I was examined this morning pretty closely by professors Shurtleff and Adams and got through the furnace without consuming utterly. I have spent the rest of the day in furnishing my room. Mr. Roby the man of whom I hired the chamber, offers to furnish one table and two chairs gratis. He is a very obliging man; but alas; is giving himself up to that enemy of the bodies & souls of men,—strong drink.—I am pleased here in every respect. The village—plain as it is, and is well called, is one of the pleasantest you can conceive of—the buildings are nearly all painted white, and stand at about 5 rods' distance from each other, all around the large, square green in front of the College, which is itself a huge 3 story wooden edifice, bearing evident marks of decay, but looking well at a distance. I board on the west and room on the east side of a street which runs south, from the west side of the College green. The College is on an eminence at the east side of the green, facing the west. All the College officers that I have seen, appear like fine, pleasant and learned men, wishing to impart in equal portions, knowledge and happiness to all. I heard professor Shurtleff who is the minister of the village parish, preach yesterday afternoon, and was highly gratified. A young man from a neighbouring state preached in the forenoon. Thus through the goodness of my Heavenly Guardian I have been guided, and protected and succeeded, beyond almost my hopes; and can only exclaim—"What shall I render to my God for all his benefits," and dedicate myself renewedly to Him.





Wednesday Morning. Esq. Greenough brought Jeremiah on, they arrived here last evening at half past 3 o'clock. We have fixed up our bed so that we shall get along very well. The present term is 16 weeks long, or nearly that; you will see by the almanack that next vacation begins on the first monday in January. I shall have to leave before that time, if I pay my expenses as I go; and if I take a school I should wish to commence it by the first of Dec. or before, as it is probable that I could obtain leave of absence 4 or 5 weeks before the close of the term. Money seems even here to be made of ice; it melts and runs away almost in the pocket.—This term will be far the most expensive of any—ten thousand things must be gotten which no one thinks of beforehand. However I have made a pretty strict law with myself with regard to money-spending and hope, with prudence, to float down, or rather beat up, this term; and then if I should not have enough to pay stage fare home, I shall, if able, foot it, though there may come a snow storm by that time, and block us in for the winter almost. However I will leave or at least endeavour to leave, all these things to the Care and Providence of Him, who has the ends of the earth at his disposal, and knows what is best for his frail, unworthy children. This letter I shall send by Esq. Greenough to Bradford, and he will forward it thence, either by post, or private conveyance if opportunity offers. Write me soon—good advice from a parent is ever salutary. I want to know how Margaret is, and would wish John to write.—Your truly affectionate son.—D. PEABODY.

Mr. John Peabody, Topsfield, Mass.

By the politeness of W. Greenough, Esq.

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Willington, near Farmville, Pr. Ed. Co. Va. Feb. 15, 1831  
Dear Brother—

I hope you have on hand a good stock of courage, for if you have not, the formidable appearance of this huge sheet may frighten you. However, as you have probably been expecting it, several weeks, it doubtless will





neither surprise nor alarm you. The reason that I have not written to you before, is, that I have been waiting for the arrival of my trunk from Richmond, in order to obtain this paper. It has arrived at last. I got it yesterday by means of a baggage waggon, all safe & sound, except a few rubs & bruises. I have experienced much inconvenience from the want of it;—but, on the whole, I am inclined to look upon the circumstance of its detention, as providential & altogether favorable to my health. For had my books been here, I should probably have been induced to study more than my strength would bear, & to expose myself to the cold morning air in riding 2 or 3 miles to & from recitation—so that the consequences might have been exceedingly injurious.

My design, in this letter, is, to tell you just what I think about Virginia, & how I feel here. This state is as different, in its whole character & appearance, from New England as you can well imagine. In the first place, the whole eastern part of the state, extending more than a hundred miles from the ocean & including Pr. Edward Co. is nearly a dead level. There are little swells, it is true but hardly anything that we should call a hill. The soil, too, is very different from N. Eng. soil. It is either a hard clay about the colour of un-burnt brick, or a fine silver coloured sand, or a dirty, slimy loam, having much the colour of tan-bark. When wet, the soil is a perfect bed of mud, sometimes 2 or 3 feet deep. Hence it is almost impossible to walk in the roads, except in dry weather, & extremely difficult to ride, except on horseback. Consequently, the latter is the common mode of travelling, & you will find few planters without a sufficient number of horses, to accommodate themselves & all their families. It is nothing for a planter to own 8 or 10 horses. Most of them have a carriage besides, for the ladies to ride, altho' they often ride horseback, sometimes behind their husbands or brothers. Another thing remarkable in the soil, is, that there are no stones visible. I am certain that I have not seen enough to build two rods of wall, in the state. (It may be found, however, anywhere, by digging a few feet beneath the surface.) Of course, there are no stone walls here. Every where, you find rail fences built in the zig-zag way, (thus xxxx.) Such a fence is very appropriately





called, in the North, *Virginia fence*.—Another thing peculiar, is, that every body seems to live alone. There are scarcely any villages here. Planters live from half a mile to 1 or 3 miles apart; & there is so much woodland all around the plantations, that one might suppose there was nothing but wilderness for hundreds of miles on every side. This is not like looking out a window on a Topsfield hill, & seeing the houses of a dozen neighbours all at one glance.—— So much for the difference in the aspect of the country. The difference in the feelings & manners of the people, is quite as great. The labour, you know, is all done by slaves. Hence it is regarded as almost disgraceful for a white man of respectability to be seen at work. Young gentlemen & ladies generally amuse themselves in reading newspapers & novels, in hunting & riding about. This gives a feeling of superiority to the Southern people; & they generally look down upon the Yankees, as they call the Northerners, with a sort of contempt. Another circumstance, which has increased the prejudice against the North, is, that formerly, swarms of pedlars from New Eng. were in the habit of travelling thro' the Southern states, & often enormously cheating the people in selling their wares. A Yankee pedlar, therefore, became an object of general abhorrence; the antipathy extended from the pedlar to all his countrymen. Hence nothing is more common here, than stories, often most ludicrous, about Yankee fraud & cunning, & every man that comes from the North, except in some few more enlightened portions of the state, is regarded, at first, with a degree of suspicion. This place is one of the exceptions referred to—Hospitality is the boasted virtue of the South; & there is some reason for it. The planters, living remotely from each other & having little to do, are glad to have a friend call, & can afford to spend hours & days in entertaining him. People travelling from one part of the state to another, seldom take a meal or lodge at a tavern, at least, much more rarely than at the North. They are always welcome at any private house, free of all expense.——The style of living here, is also singular. Pork is the main article of food. Dr. Morton, where I reside, had 30 or 40 hogs killed in one day, all for his own use. The pork is not salted down, but converted





into bacon, or cured in some other way. Beef is considered as a very inferior sort of food; & so it is as it is cooked here, for it is so dried up as to have very little of the genuine beef taste. I have sometimes thought it would suit your palate remarkably well. Roast turkey is likewise a favorite dish—we have it about once a week. Rye is not raised here at all. Pure wheat bread & pure corn bread, as they call it, are the only kinds used. I long for a slice of rye & indian.—The kitchen, where all the cooking is done, is generally in an out-house some 6 or 8 rods from the dwelling house, so that every warm dish has to go thro' dust, rain, snow or whatever else may happen, before it get to the table.—I suppose you would be pleased with some account of the family where I reside. To begin, then, I will introduce you to Dr. M's father, a short, thick, corpulent man, weighing well towards 3 hundred, about 75 years of age, but apparently much younger. He is of a sandy complexion, & has a face which sometimes reminds me of Dr. Peabody's. He is one of the revolutionary officers, a lieutenant in the army, but bearing the title of major now. He was in a great many battles, & can give you all the particulars of them. He retains his faculties to a remarkable degree & is perhaps a little proud of his activity both of mind & body. He has been a great singer in his day, & he still acts as clerk at church, that is, he sets the tune. He takes his place in the pulpit, & as soon as the minister has read the hymn, he rises & with a dreadful bawl, begins the tune, while any others who please in different parts of the house, strike in. Regular quoirs are scarcely known here. He also sings night & morning at family devotions, much to my annoyance. I think he has the strongest voice, & the most unmusical, too, that I ever heard. I have been informed on unquestionable authority, that it has been heard more than 3 miles. He is, moreover, an elder in the church.—Dr Morton himself is an intelligent, entertaining man, rather rough in his appearance & manners, but possessed of kind feelings. He is often absent several days together at the gold mines, 40 or 50-miles west of us, in which he is deeply interested, but where, I am afraid, he will obtain very little to pay him for his toil & trouble. He also is a professor of religion.—





Mrs. M. his wife, is a kind, amiable woman, of excellent mind & ardent piety. She, however, has very feeble health & is now confined to her bed by sickness. There are only two children; one, a gay, active, intelligent, blooming daughter, about sixteen; the other, a mild, gentle, lovely boy, about nine. The latter is my pupil. His disposition is uncommonly fine, & he has endeared himself to me exceedingly. It is a pleasure to instruct him. Another boy is associated with him in study, not quite so interesting, but still very clever.—You are not very desirous, probably, of becoming acquainted with the negroes, of whom there are 70 or 80, I believe, living in little log huts round about us. It distresses me to see them. They are well treated;—but then to think how they are growing up in ignorance & sin, & in such a degraded & hopeless condition for this world & the next, is extremely painful. As servants, they are unfaithful, they never do any thing *well*, & their masters would be glad to get rid of them if they could. To set them free, would be to form hordes of thieves & robbers, (for this experiment has been tried,) unless they are sent out of the country, & the expense of doing this, would be greater than the masters could bear.

Thus I have given you, at much greater length than I intended, my thoughts about Virginia; & as to my feelings, here, you perhaps can form a pretty correct opinion for yourself. I sometimes feel as if among strangers in a strange land, it is true, because every thing about me is so new and strange. But I find the kindest of friends everywhere. People in this immediate vicinity are extremely friendly toward gentlemen from the North. Dr. Rice's lady, who is a sister of Dr. Morton, treats me, as she does all the students, with the utmost kindness; & I feel as much at home there, as at my own residence. Dr. Rice has been sick nearly 3 months, & is very little better. My health remains as usual. I think the style of living here does not suit me exactly; I make the best of it.

We have had about the hardest winter, it is said, ever known here. Snow fell to the depth of a foot or more, 3 weeks ago, & the ground is covered with it still.—I went to work & made a sort of sleigh, as soon as it came, & we have





had several respectable sleigh-rides in it. It is the wonder of the whole neighbourhood, & every body said it must be a piece of Yankee contrivance. I take most of my exercise, excepting that of riding, in my boyish employment of tinkering, as Dr. M. has a tolerable set of tools which are at my service.— — — I intended to devote half of this sheet to Joel, but found so much to say to you, that I must trouble him at some other time. You cannot imagine how I long for a letter from home. Not a single letter since I left you! I sometimes accuse my friends of cruelty; & I am sure, if they knew how I am starving for a letter from them, some of them would write without an hour's delay. What is there interesting in Topsfield? How proceeds the good work? Who among our friends share in it? &c. Do not rest dear brother, till you get somebody to write immediately. Let Cynthia write if she will.

Your brother with more affection than he can express,  
D. PEABODY.

17. I have just received an interesting letter from Br. John, & am glad to learn that you are all well. His letter afforded me a rich banquet. It has done me more good than a present of a hundred dollars.

Willington is the name of Dr. M.'s plantation. I wrote to br. John, a few weeks ago—wonder if he received the letter.

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St. Francisville (La.), Jan<sup>y</sup> 23<sup>d</sup> 1837.

Dear mother:

In my letter to John, written & sent more than a month ago, I believe I promised to write about once in 6 weeks. I suppose it matters not whether I write to him or you; as my letters are probably read by you all, worthless as they may be. You are doubtless looking for one about this time, which shall inform you where we are, & how, under the kind providence of God, it is faring with us. Well then, let me tell you that we are in a place which reminds us more strongly of Sodom, than any we have ever seen, or ever expected to see. But still, God preserves us, & gives us much to enjoy & much to be thankful for. I think, if we ever get





safe back to New England, whether our health is improved or not by our visit to this region, we shall not regret that we came here, if it be only to teach us to prize our privileges more, & be more grateful that our lot was cast in such pleasant places.

I have been something of a wanderer in my day—yet every wandering only endears my native land to me the more. You can hardly conceive how totally regardless the people here generally are of every thing of a religious nature. Shops are kept open on the Sabbath; & more marketing is probably done on that day, at least more produce is sold by the slaves, than on any other day in the week. Very few persons will attend meeting in proportion to the whole number. There are probably two or three hundred persons (white persons) in the two villages of the town, who might & ought to attend meeting every Sabbath. Yet not a quarter part of them ever come. The larger proportion of attendants, except children, are from the country around. Sometimes we have, when the weather is good, more than a hundred present. Thus far I have preached every Sabbath, except one when we had an Episcopal minister present. There are two Meeting-houses in this village, one Presbyterian & one Episcopal, yet, as they not in a state comfortable in cold or rainy weather, we generally meet in the Court-house. I sometimes feel as if it was entirely useless to attempt to do any good here, every body is so given up to worldly pursuits & pleasures, & there is so little regard for serious things. The prevalence of profaneness & drinking & every sort of wickedness is such as to disgust every one not accustomed to the worst form of human character. When I express surprise, I am told for my encouragement, that a few months will make me feel very differently. But I hope I shall never learn to look on sin with any other feelings than those of unmingled abhorrence. There are many people here from the Northern States; but most of them seem if possible, worse than the natives. They are generally such as have come for the purpose of getting rich; & they appear to have bartered all regard for their souls, for the object they are pursuing.





As I have said so much about this place, I will just complete the description. Imagine then, in the first place, the Mississippi River, a mighty stream about a mile wide, running near in a south direction. Up this River, a little more than 200 miles from its mouth, & about half that distance above New Orleans, is St. Francisville. It is on the east bank of the River. One village, called the Bayou, stands directly on the shore, & consists of perhaps 50 or 60 houses within the compass of half a mile square. You then take an eastern direction up a hill, & after going about a mile, come to the other village, where we have taken up our residence. It is built on two main streets running east & west, & contains not far from 100 houses. Its appearance is old & decaying. There is nothing about it in the least degree pleasant; & considering the state of society, I certainly would much rather take up my abode in some heathen countries than here. Nor does it seem to be a place capable of being made much better. There are probably 20 lawyers in & about the village, & they are for the most part violently hostile to vital religion; & exert a tremendous influence against it. Some of them occasionally attend meeting on the Sabbath; but they are quite as likely to be parading the streets at the head of a military company—a thing which has occurred I believe three times since we came here, on the Sabbath.

Mr. Ballard, who is engaged to Maria's sister, has got up a pretty interesting Sabbath School, & we hope for more good from this than every thing else. Men seem hardened in sin. Possibly something may be done for the youth. Mr. B. seems resolved to settle down here permanently. But we cannot think of bringing a wife into such a place. It is astonishing how professors of religion, when they remove from the privileges & restraints of religious society, seem to lose their spirit as Christians, & fall into the habits which prevail around them. There are here several such from the Northern States, who seldom if ever visit the house of God, & who are as inattentive to the religious instruction of their children as others. Indeed they would not be known except from the fact of their profession. How much reason have we to pray—"Lord, lead us not into temptation."





You will perhaps wonder how it happens that there are two Meeting-houses here, and no religion. One of them was originally built by Baptists. They held worship in it a while; but finding, as it appear, that their efforts were in vain, they relinquished the house to Presbyterians. A Mr. Scott, an excellent Presbyterian minister preached in it a while, & then removed to another place. He was a man of some wealth & probably supported himself. Then a Mr. Montgomery came & preached some time; but his health failed him; & finally marrying a rich widow with a plantation worth perhaps 150 thousand dollars, he retired & now lives at his ease. He too is an excellent man. I have spent a number of days in his family. He would preach if able; but an asthma renders it nearly impossible. No labors hitherto have been much blessed in this place; & it was probably never in so unpromising a state as now. The Episcopal house was built only a few years ago, & was never finished till very recently. There is preaching in it occasionally; but rarely.

One reason, why the good seed falls on this ground with so little effect, is, that every body is in a rage to get rich; & Christ has intimated that it is a hard matter for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God. Only think of a planter's raising 75 thousand dollars worth of cotton in a single year. Yet this is often done—and the rapidity with which men accumulate wealth in other ways, tho' not so great, is something like it. For instance, where a Lawyer or Physician would charge 5 dollars at the North, they charge 50 or 75 here. We have taken a few scholars to teach while here; & are to have 6 dollars a month apiece for them. And this, in proportion to other things is very low. Not long since, a man married a lady who was worth 100 thousand dollars. After the marriage, the man said to himself—"All I am worth, I got by my wife—That is not a very pleasant idea, I will see what I can do for myself"—So he entered into speculation; & in less than 18 months he was worth about 3 times as much as on the evening of his marriage. Thus riches pour in in torrents here; & they overwhelm & destroy every thing else. For my part, I was never so fully convinced of the wisdom of the instructions of the mother of Lemuel, (See Proverbs 31 chap.) as since I came to this country.





I do long to hear from you, & cannot but hope that a letter is on the way from John or some of you, & that it will soon reach me. I often think that you may some of you be sick or in trouble, & long to be where I could sympathise & assist. It is some consolation to be able to bring you all before the Mercy Seat & commend you to the care of our Father in heaven. May his kind wing be over you, & his mercy be multiplied to you exceedingly.

Our health is pretty good, except that we have suffered some from bowel complaints, owing probably to the change of diet. We can hardly get what we consider wholesome food. The Small Pox is now among us & as many of the negroes have not been vaccinated, it will be likely to spread. But may God preserve us all.

Maria unites in love & kind wishes,

Most affectionately, your son,

D. PEABODY.

Scarcely an hour had passed after writing the last page, when I had the pleasure of receiving a letter from John, dated Dec. 30, by which I learn that you are or were all well. The Lord be praised. You will please say nothing about our having taken a few scholars, for if it should get to Worcester, we might be thought to have taken too much upon us. Be not anxious on account of the Small Pox. We have both been vaccinated; I have been twice.

I hope Joel will write me, & that soon.

D. P.

Mrs. Lydia Peabody

Care of Dea. J. R. Peabody,

Topsfield, Mass.





BUILDING OF MEETING HOUSE IN 1842

Signed sealed in presence of Joseph Hasty Wm Munday Their  
H. Cummings The C. B. Bradstreet Committee  
chosen by said Parish

THE BUILDING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING HOUSE IN 1842.

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Be it remembered that on this fourth day of July A. D. 1842 it is agreed by and between, Mark R. Jewett of Rowley in the County of Essex and Commonwealth of Massachusetts—Housewright—on the one part—and by the Congregational Parish, in Topsfield in said County—on the other part—in manner and form following viz: That the said Mark R. Jewett for the consideration hereinafter mentioned doth for himself, his Executors, Administrators and assigns, promise and agree to and with the said Parish and their successors, that he the said Mark R. Jewett or his assigns shall and will within the space of *Five months* next following the date hereof in a good and workmanlike manner, at Topsfield aforesaid—well and substantially erect, build, set up, and finish one meetinghouse for said Parish according to the draughts, references and specification hereunto annexed.

In consideration whereof the said Parish doth promise and agree to and with the said Mark Jewett or his assigns, well and truly to pay, or cause to be paid unto the said Mark Jewett or his assigns the sum of Four Thousand Three Hundred Dollars in manner following, that is to say—one fourth part thereof at the time of raising the Frame of said House—one fourth part when the outside is finished—one fourth part when the inside is ceiled and plastered—The other and last part when the House shall be completely finished and accepted.

In witness whereof the said Congregational Parish and Mark Jewett aforesaid have hereunto set our hands and seals this fourth day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight hundred and Forty two.

Mark R Jewett Contractor



Signed sealed in presence of Joseph Hasty H. Cummings      The Congregational Parish in Topsfield by	} } } } } } }	Wm Munday C. B. Bradstreet J. R. Peabody John G. Hood B. P. Adams A. S. Peabody Samuel Todd	} } } } } } }	Their Committee chosen and duly authorized by said Parish
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N. B. That the parties have agreed to build and pay for the Meetinghouse in Five months as named in the contract above—with full liberty reserved to each party—that if the inclemency of the weather or unfavorable rains should intervene or bodily inability of the contractor—should render it necessary—that this contract can be extended indefinitely.

The committee Chosen by the Cong. Parish on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April A. D. 1842 to dispose of the old house and build a new one would make the following Statement as the report of their doings.

Credit By sales on old House	\$222.82
Appraisal & Costs & old Pews deducted	161.78
Balance left in hands of Committee	\$61.04
Also received of loaners on Subscription	1466.50
Money hired of Amos Fisk, Amos Gould & others	1233.33
Notes now outstanding on time	1626.72
Bills not paid & Cash on hand	562 41

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\$4950.00

Dr To Cash paid Mark R. Jewett	\$4002.50
“ “ Cash paid for underpinning Stones	85.00
“ “ “ paid P. Tapley for Teaming	73.36
Samuel Goodale Bill Stone work	39.02
Joseph Hasty work on Celler	15.00
Lemuel H. Gould work on Celler	10.00
Thomas Moore eight days work	8.00
Samuel Janes “ “	5.12





Francis Gould	" "	3.50
David B. Balch	" "	2.25
Philarman Ruggles work of Oxen		1.50
William Hubbard one day		1.00
A. W. & H. O. Warren for Lime		3.00
Edward Clark of Rowley Mason work in Cellar		3.75
Richard Phillips hauling Stones and Gravel		17.00
Charles Snow Teaming		15.20
Samuel Hood labour Timber &c		25.00
D. & D. Andrews Timber for Bell carriage		5.25
Benjamin Herrick Bell work		31.00
John Sawyer Iron work on Bell		7.69
Samuel Symonds, Salem Gold Leaf for Vane		8.75
William H. Chase " for Locks		5.50
J. & H. Hale " Escutcheon Bolts		7.91
J. Henderson " Pew numbers		6.72
Gazette & Register for advertising		2.00
Lane of Newburyport for Letters & Chains		33.25
Banks for interest on Notes		24.08
William Munday—Dinners, Cash &c.		26.50
Samuel Todd Labour & Cash paid out		28.00
C. B. Bradstreet Labour & other services		16.00
John G. Hood Cash paid & labour &c.		45.93
Benjamin P. Adams Bill		25.40
A. S. Peabody Bill		8.00
Joel R. Peabody "		7.00
W. & S. B. Ives Salem printing Deeds &c.		7.00
Josiah Haywood Furnaces		188.02
S. D. Woodbury Pulpit		150.00
Nathl Perkins Jr collecting Subscriptions		3.00

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\$4950.00

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This account is rendered exclusive of Bell, Vane & Spindle, and Gallery Lamps they being taken out of the Old House.

And also exclusive of the Chandelier and Pulpit Lamps, Pulpit Bible & Hymn Book, Sofa, Chairs, Table & Carpets. These having been placed in the house without any Cost or transfer to us.

Topsfield March 9, 1843.





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PAGE OF A SERMON WRITTEN IN STENOGRAPHY

BY REV. GEORGE LESSLIE.





JAMES LESSLIE OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.  
AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS.

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BY M. V. B. PERLEY.

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THE learned research of Rev. George Lesslie and his faith in the origin and form of his name, and in his right to coat-armor, demand recognition. He invariably employed two esses in his sign-manual and impressed his seal with a griffin.

This Anglo-Saxon name in Hungary, its native home, was *lis lyn* (castle-on-lake), and it went into England, about 1067, with Bartholomew de Lislyn, a scion of Hungarian nobility, upon the recall of Prince Edward, "the Outlaw," to the English throne by the decrepit King Edward, "the Confessor." The recall miscarried; the king and the prince both died soon after the arrival of the prince and his family in England; but Margaret, daughter of the prince, married Malcolm III, Canmore, King of Scotland, and Bartholomew trusted his fortune with the fortune of the re-established king.

King Malcolm, recognizing Lislyn's nobility and learning, persuaded of his prowess and valor, and realizing the great value such a personage would be to the Crown, granted or leased to him a large tract of land in county Aberdeen, the equivalent, no doubt, of an earldom, and so conferred upon the possessor the highest rank below the royal family. The high consideration and courtesy of the king gave the Hungarian courtier a local habitation and a surname—Bartholomew of the *leased land*, which

NOTE.—The following persons have given material aid in this compilation: President Homan of Willamette University, Salem, Ore.; Ex-President Whitaker of Willamette University and Librarian Lockwood, Wesleyan Hall, Boston, Mass.; Mr. J. P. Litchfield, historian of the M. E. Memorial Church, Salem, Ore.; C. E. Leslie, Esq., St. Johnsbury, Vt.; Freeland D. Leslie, M. D. (No. 173); Horace G. Leslie, M. D. (No. 126); Mrs. Esther I. Blackwell (No. 96); and Mrs. Helen M. Worthen (No. 124).





in the Old or Norman French, the polished language in England at that time, and the fruitful mother of patronymies, is *lesse* for leased, and *ley*, *lea*, or *lie* for land,—which anglicized became Lesslie;\* and Bartholomew de Lesslie and his wife became the Adam and Eve of the race of Lesslies.

The Lesslie coat of arms† for Aberdeen, Scotland, the plainest and therefore the oldest and freighted with greatest honor, is *silver*, on a bend embattled *blue*, three buckles *gold*; the crest a griffin; motto: "Hold fast." This shield is indeed martial, and eminently characteristic of this clan, as illustrated in the call home of Gen. Alexander Leslie to organize an army against Cromwell's religious war, and in placing Gen. David Leslie as Field-Marshal at Dunbar, against Cromwell himself.

This quotation from the extensive foreign correspondence of Horace G. Leslie, M. D. (No. 126), is pertinent here :—

"Many branches of the family live in England and Ireland, and their pedigrees are easily traced to this original :

Bartholomew,	founder,	died 1121.
Malcolm,	charter,	died 1165.
Norman,	charter,	died 1224.
Norino (Norman?),	charter,	died 1248.
Sir Norman,		died 1282.

\*Col. Charles Leslie, K. T., says in his three-volumed history of British Leslies, quoting Vesstigan's poem, a Leslie's duel with a foreign knight:

Between the Lessley and the mair  
He slew the knight and left him there.

The Colonel also says: "It is beyond doubt that Bartholomew did obtain from the King a grant of land in county Aberdeen."—*Vol. I, p. 6.*

†The totem of the clan Leslie is a GOLD BUCKLE. Two shields bearing different ordinaries are of very high antiquity—one, as above, with an embattled bend, or military scarf; the other with a fesse or belt, eminently chivalrous, indicating the office of a chap-eron, perhaps, to the Queen, the motto "Grip fast" to the belt, his caution in case of danger. The other motto, "Hold fast," is perhaps more military, as "Hold the fort." About the year 1500 this male descent lapsed, and the inheritress adopted the lozenge-shaped escutcheon.





Sir Andrew de Leslie, who married Mary, daughter of Sir Alexander Abernothy, and received the baronies of Ballinbreich, Cairny and Rothes. His greatgrandson William had a son George, who died 1467, and who was great-great-grandfather of the celebrated Gen. Alexander Leslie.

Sir Andrew,	1325-1353.
Sir Andrew,	1353-1398.
David,	died 1439.

"No name stands higher in Scotland than Leslie."

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1. JAMES LESSLIE, the immigrant, father of Rev. George Lesslie, styled "Rev." in "Contributions to the Ecclesiastical History of Essex County" and in Gage's "History of Rowley," was son of a Scotch covenantor, who lived in Coleraine,\* county Londonderry, Ireland. The name is now (1912) known in that vicinity.† He came to this country in 1729, with wife Margaret (Sheer-rar), and located in Topsfield, where maybe he lived till the last half of the year 1754. His son bought land in

\*The level area in the northwesterly part of the town of Topsfield, lying west of the B. & M. R. R. tracks and south of the land of the late Arthur W. Phillips, has long been known as "Coleraine." Mention of this locality name appears in a deed as early as 1797, conveying land at this point. The appearance of this unusual name at once suggests a connection with the Irish home of James Lesslie, and who probably lived in this locality which lies on both sides of the Topsfield-Boxford boundary line. James Lesslie paid taxes in Boxford in 1740 and 1741, and those years only. The Topsfield assessors' records do not go back far enough to absolutely prove a Topsfield residence for him.

†Mr. Maxwell Given wrote to Dr. Leslie (No. 126), from Coleraine, Ire., 27 Feb., 1906, "I have just discovered that the Leslie family is descended from Henry Leslie, who became bishop of Down and Connor 4 Nov., 1635. He was son of James, grandson of George, 4th Earl of Rothes, by his second wife, Agnes Summer-ville."

Super-Registrar S. Loecky wrote from Coleraine, Ire., on 25, 3, 1912: "The name once resided in Castletodry, near here, but not now. Grandchildren are in Kilcanny, Coleraine. The name is mentioned in lists of aldermen and representatives in Parliament. Ireland had no public vital records till 1864, when compulsory registration began."





Linebrook\* for a house, 1 July, 1753, and when the house was finished in 1754, father, mother and son occupied it, and Mr. James Lesslie and his wife had or were given charge of the communion table, Tuesday, Dec. 31, of that year. On 20 March, 1763, it was voted that he keep the key of the meeting-house, sweep it six times a year, and bring water for baptisms, for one pound a year. Giving Mr. Lesslie the service of making ready the table was wise, especially in winter and stormy weather, since the deacons lived one and a half and two miles away. It was no interference with their office, but lessened the work or care of busy men. "Father Lesslie" died 12 May, 1763. The date of mother Lesslie's death is not recorded.

Children of James and Margaret Lesslie, born in Ireland :

2. ELIZABETH, d. 21 Sept., 1736, in Topsfield.
3. JAMES, d. 30 Sept., 1736, in Topsfield.
4. ESTHER, m. 17 March, 1737-8, Hugh Lynde; lived in Topsfield, where her servant, a child, d. 8 or 18 Aug., 1760, and she d. 2 Oct., 1778.
5. JOSEPH, m. 27 March, 1755, Mercy Dresser. He was taxed in Topsfield, 1761, 3s. 10d. 2f., and his meeting-house rates were abated, 1761, 6s. 4d. "About 1764," reads Felt's History of Ipswich, "Joseph, brother of Rev. George Lesslie, returning to West Ipswich from a residence at St. John's, was drowned, with his wife and seven children." These baptisms and deaths of their children are recorded: James, bapt. 11 Jan., 1756, d. 10 Oct., 1756—*Linebrook rec.*; James, bapt. 10 April, 1757, d. 26 Sept., 1758, aged 18 months, of "convulsion fits"—*Byfield Chh. rec.*; Lynde, bapt. 13 May, 1759; Joseph, bapt. 10 Aug., 1760—*Topsfield rec.*; Mary, bapt. 2 Oct., 1763—*Boxford 1st Chh. rec.*
6. GEORGE, b. 25 Nov. 1727.

\*The citizens of South Rowley and West Ipswich met and resolved to establish a territorial parish, 12 April, 1744. The proposed parish was incorporated 5 June, 1746. The incorporated territory was named, 27 June, 1747, Linebrook Parish, because of these streams in its boundary line: Ipswich River, Gravelly brook, Bull brook, Batchelder's brook, Strait brook and Howlett's brook. While the corporate function of the parish has been ignored, the territory has been called Linebrook.





6. REV. GEORGE LESSLIE, A. M., was the fifth child of James and Margaret (Sheerar) Lesslie, and was born 25 Nov., 1727, and, as the History of Washington, N. H., reads, in Coleraine, Ireland. He was brought to America in 1729, or, as per Rev. J. S. Griswold's "New Hampshire Churches," "came from Ireland, when he was eighteen months old, with his parents, who located in Topsfield." He fitted for college,\* it is presumed, under Rev. John Emerson, minister of Topsfield. In 1748 he was teaching school in Boxford, and seems to have taught there previously for several years. He graduated from Harvard College, Wednesday, 6 July, 1748. His class had twenty-four members, of whom were George Leonard and Artemas Ward, afterwards congressmen; Perez March and John Rand, librarians; and seven gospel ministers, including Jacob Cushing, S. T. D., and "Georgius Lesslie." All but Ward, Brown and Samuel French took the master's degree.

Mr. Lesslie was admitted to membership in the Topsfield church on profession of faith, 5 March, 1749, and there is no doubt that he studied divinity with his early instructor, Rev. Mr. Emerson. He began to preach at Linebrook, 14 Aug., 1748, the sixth Sabbath after his graduation; and when he began to preach as a candidate for the Linebrook pastorate, 19 March, 1749, he had supplied there thirty-one Sabbaths, and twenty-nine of them before he joined a church, according to the following record:

"At a legal Parish meeting 21 March, 1748-9, Thomas Potter, moderator, Mark Howe, clerk, voted that Abm How have for his keeping Mr. Lesslie for time past seven pounds old tenor—07-00-0; Voted to give to Mr. John Smith for keeping Mr. Lesslie 3 Sabbaths fifteen shillings old tenor, 0-15-0; Voted to allow Mr. Lesslie six pounds a Sabbath for the time past, before he began upon probation with us which was ye 3d Sabbath in March current," viz., the 19th. His call to settle was accepted 16 Aug., 1749.

\*Harvard College records Mr. Lesslie's birth-date as 25 Nov., 1727; his age at matriculation, 16 years, 8 months; and his entrance into college, 26 Feb., 1745, six months after he registered as belonging in Topsfield.





Mr. Felt's History of Ipswich records that Mr. Leslie, "having preached one year," was ordained and installed pastor of the Linebrook church, 15 Nov., 1749, the day of the organization of the church.

The Parish record in this relation reads: "Sept. 21, John Smith, moderator, Voted, Mr. Lesslie's ordination to be, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1749; Voted, Mr. Wigglesworth, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Wally, all of Ipswich, Mr. Jewett and Mr. Chandler of Rowley, Mr. Parsons of Byfield, Mr. Emerson of Topsfield, be the ministers with their messengers that are to assist in ordaining Mr. George Lesslie; Voted the following a committee to invite the ministers: Thomas Potter, John Abbott, Jonathan Burpee, Isaac Davis, James Hibbert."

Mr. Lesslie's dismissal from the Topsfield church was Friday, 6 Oct., 1749. His settlement at Linebrook was £700, old tenor, or \$311.08, and his salary was to be £100 lawful money and twelve cords of wood.

Mr. Lesslie exchanged land with his parish, 1 July, 1753, for land "to set a house on," but he recorded none of the deeds given him, and we have no knowledge of his realty purchases. The land adjoining the meeting-house, given to the parish 13 Feb., 1743, by Joseph Metcalf, was bounded on the north by land of Nathaniel Bradstreet. The location of the land exchanged with the parish, in 1753, was on the north, "adjoining the parish land at the westerly end of said parish land." The land exchanged (leased for 999 years, for a cemetery) was 19 rods long and 2 3-4 rods wide and contained 53 square rods; the land "to set a house on" began at Wicom's corner and ran southwest 23 rods 7 feet, then westerly 2 rods 2 feet, then easterly 16 rods, then 12 rods to the first mentioned bounds, containing 107 square rods. He built a two-story house and a barn on it. They stood a few rods west of his meeting-house. The house was 40 by 20 feet and the barn 44 by 23 feet. The house, some years ago, was burned down, as was his second house, in Washington's great conflagration, and the barn, some years later, tumbled down. He sold his entire interest there, 13 Sept., 1780, to Elijah and Allen Foster, both of Ipswich, for £80. The sale included the home-





stead, 107 square rods; also a piece of land he bought of Knowlton; also another piece westward of the above, bounded by Capt. Thomas Foster, westerly by a proprietors' road, northwesterly by Jeremiah Ellsworth, northerly by New Road, easterly by county road, southerly and easterly by parish land; also another piece on the opposite side of the county road. He sold land in Boxford, "4 1-2 acres and 17 poles," for £200, to Thomas Perley, jr., 2 March, 1780.

We cannot locate his home during the period between his ordination in 1749 and the building of his house in 1753-4. He had a school in Linebrook in 1752, a fact that argues a home there. We may conclude that the family, parents and son, removed to Linebrook, as soon as practical, after his settlement, and possibly occupied the house that stood some distance back of the New cemetery—a Conant home, which some years later was sold to John Perley, sr., and removed to its present location (1915), the second house west of Garrette's hill.

His school doubtless began before 1752. Many students resorted to his home for instruction. In modern phrase, his home was a popular boarding school. He taught the useful sciences and fitted young men for college and for the ministry. Here are a few names, between 1752 and 1759, that are found in the parish records:—Symonds, son of Capt. Baker; Asa, son of Samuel Bradstreet; Timothy and Andrew Fuller; Thomas Stickney; Samuel Perley; Thomas Gowing; Moses Nichols; Samuel Porter; and Mark Howe, who paid £6 for six months' tuition.

Mr. Lesslie was one of the organizers of the Essex North Association of Ministers. His is the sixth name signed to their covenant. The Association met with him 13 Nov., 1770, when the matter of Rev. Christopher B. Marsh's church was considered and the action of the church was unanimously sustained.

Mr. Lesslie's publications were confined to occasional sermons. Of those one was in possession of Horace G. Lesslie, M. D., of Amesbury (No. 126), two are in the Essex Institute, and there was one preached at Seabrook (now Hampton Falls) at the ordination of one of his





divinity students, Samuel Perley, 31 Jan., 1765. One of the sermons preserved in the Essex Institute was preached in the North Parish Church of Newburyport, 12 Aug., 1779. The day was Thursday, and probably the sermon was a part of the usual lecture service. The topic was, "The nature and tendency of the sin of selfishness." The text was 2 Timothy, 3 : 2: "For men shall be lovers of their own selves." It was a war sermon. He says: "Fourthly, what we have heard points out one special ground or reason of the perils and distresses of the present day. . . . Criminal self-love is at the bottom of the present unnatural contest between these states." The discourse is unimpassioned, logical, and sharply forceful; it is a Christian minister rebuking the heinous sin of the British ministry. It expressed the prevailing sentiment of the general public, and immediately appeared in print. He left also two sermons in stenography, a page of which is here shown, same size as the original.

Mr. Lesslie attended Ezra Ross at the gallows, in Worcester, 2 July, 1778. Ezra's parents were members of Mr. Lesslie's church, and Ezra, of course, was a member of the church society. Ezra was sixteen years of age, the youngest of seventeen children, of whom nine were then living, and four of the nine were in the war. Returning from his first enlistment, young Ezra fell sick in Brookfield, Mass., and was nursed to health in the home of Mr. John Spooner. Mr. Spooner was a retired lumberman, passively disposed and of simple tastes. His wife was Bathsheba, daughter of Chief-Justice Ruggles. She never knew the want of a luxury that money could buy and was haughty and imperious, and the house was divided against itself. On Ezra's return from his second enlistment, gratitude prompted him to visit his benefactress. He was youthful, had a fine physique, and stature far beyond his years; he was active, social, witty, handsome; she was artful, seductive, profligate. Mr. Spooner was in her way and he was removed. Four persons were arrested, including Mrs. Spooner and young Ezra. The trial was short and the way to the gallows was short. Several petitions, because of her delicate condition and of his youth and accidental knowledge of the deed, were





of no avail. Linebrook was stricken with profound grief; the church appointed a day of fasting, humiliation and prayer, which was solemnly kept.

Mr. Lesslie was a justice of the peace, probate attorney and conveyancer. His work is often met with in the records. He wrote a very legible hand, very suited to

*George Lesslie*

please copyists. He seems to have cared little to record his own deeds, and the sources of only two pieces, as above, are known, except a right in

Bull brook pasture, given to his homestead by the Commoners, the line on the north side of the road beginning about eight rods on the west side of Egypt River bridge, and so across said river till it comes to a stake and stones forty-two rods from the first bound. Former owners had dugged a well there and a parish committee adjusted the cost, and also 26 March, 1764, employed Thomas Foster to fence in the right, before 20 April, with a lawful rail fence. He built thirty-six rods, showing the river there then to have been about one hundred feet wide.

During Mr. Lesslie's pastorate the population of his parish diminished greatly. One very apparent cause was the formation of a colony in New Brunswick, which took his own brother, his wife's parents and uncles and others.\* Yet Mrs. Ruth Conant, daughter of Dea. Philemon Foster and mother of Dea. William Foster Conant, furnishes a creditable labor for the Master. She wrote: "The church was embodied of thirteen male members. In that year twenty-two members were added. From 1749 to 1770 forty-six members were added, making eighty-nine in all. There is no account of other additions during Mr. Lesslie's pastorate."

Besides the diminution of population, there came the depreciation of paper money, and as a climax, the parish declined to make up the deficiency. Mr. Lesslie's affairs were precarious, beyond the power of common faith.

\*Raymond's "Saint John River" says: "Many of the settlers of the Maugerville township came, in 1762-1763, from Rowley, Mass. There were Burpees, Barkers, Perleys, Jewetts, Palmers, and others."





He had arrived at Troas ; he heard a voice from Washington, N. H., "Come over and help us," and it seemed to him a fruitful relief. He thereupon determined upon a dismissal from the pastorate, 22 Oct., 1779, a council convened 4 Nov., 1779, advised that the pastorate be dissolved, 30 November, the date that had been agreed upon by the church and the pastor. His transfer of membership was 10 Dec., 1779. His wife asked for a transfer of her membership to Washington on 3 Aug., 1780, which was voted 11 Sept., 1780.

Once, during Mr. Lesslie's pastorate at Linebrook, the distinguished pulpit orator and nation-wide evangelist, Rev. George Whitefield, preached. The attraction at Linebrook may have been the common factor in Calvinistic Methodism and Presbyterian Calvinism. The date of the occasion is unknown. A forenoon in September, 1770, Mr. Whitefield dedicated the South meeting-house in New Rowley, now Georgetown. The exact date of that important event is also unknown. It is judged that the day of dedication at New Rowley, which Gage's History of Rowley says may have been 12, 13, or 22, Wednesday, Thursday or Saturday, would have been opportune for the great occasion at Linebrook. The church was early filled to repletion, and the multitude, some 2000 to 3000 persons, was obliged to occupy the open field. On the Ellsworth road, north side, 14 rods from the corner at the county road, is a large flat rock or ledge, with perpendicular front, that became the improvised pulpit of the reverend clergyman. It was beautifully situated to the open field and afforded a fine opportunity for his stentorian voice and impressive eloquence. The ledge is known as "Pulpit Rock." This brief episode was told the writer by his uncle John Perley, whose father owned a residence, half a mile perhaps from the meeting-house ; also by Nathaniel and Ephraim Foster, both octogenarians now (1913), whose grandfather owned a house and reared a family about eighty rods from "Pulpit Rock." Later their grandfather Allen Foster owned the Lesslie homestead. Those gentlemen were familiar with the territory and knew well its colloquial history.

Mr. Lesslie and his family left Linebrook for Wash-





ington, N. H., 6 March, 1780. They were nine days making the journey of eighty miles. At that time there were no public roads worthy the name. Intelligence from the country around was only occasional. Only once in two or three months was news received from Boston. Washington was originally Monadnock, No. 8. It was settled in 1768, and called Camden, and 13 Dec., 1776, was incorporated as Washington. By a vote of the town proposals were made to Mr. Lesslie in September, 1779; his salary was to be fifty-five pounds, payable in rye at four shillings per bushel, corn at three shillings, beef at two and one-half cents per pound, and pork at four cents per pound, with other eatables and wearing apparel at equivalent rates, and his settlement was to be two hundred acres of land, "to him and his heirs forever,"—as provided in the town grant to the first minister. Rev. Mr. Kindall was chosen to transmit the proposals. Robert Mann was to wait on Mr. Lesslie the first week in November for his answer. The agreement was made and the people of Washington by subscription furnished money to transfer his effects. In 1794 the town voted to pay his salary in money.

His privations the first year were great. Provisions, in many instances, could not be obtained without going from thirty to forty miles. His first winter was unusually long. Snow fell 19 October, two feet deep, and remained till late in the next spring. During that spring, twenty-seven of his people's cattle died of starvation. Mr. Lesslie lost his only cow. Fasting and prayer were observed on account of the sad prospects. One whole winter his family was without salt, and a bushel in the spring cost \$5.

The church was organized 9 May, 1779, but its original records for the first twenty years are lost. Mr. Lesslie was installed its pastor 12 July, 1780, in a barn belonging to John Safford, when the pastor was fifty-three years old. He was known as "Priest Lesslie," the common title of the day.

The first move to build a meeting-house was in 1785. The timbers were got out in 1786, all cut and hewed in the old of the moon in September and October, and the





building was finished in 1789, when the town raised £80 for the purpose. Mr. Lesslie's son David was the first sexton, and served the first year for 3s. 6d.

Mr. Lesslie's character was essentially Scotch—strong, courageous, active, efficient, stable, true. He had faith in his ability to do whatever he undertook. Very few persons have had better visible ground of faith than he had. He belonged to that brilliant Scotch-Irish intellect that planted the Presbyterian faith in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and gave us our twenty-seventh national president. He worked harmoniously with Congregational Calvinism, as might be expected, and was regarded as a strong defender of the faith.

Early in his ministry he formulated, as follows, his faith and practice: "I take God, the Father, to be my chief good and highest end; I take God, the Son, to be my only Lord and Saviour; I take God, the Holy Spirit, to be my Sanctifier, Teacher, Guide and Comforter; I take the Truth of God to be my rule in all my actions; I take the people of God to be my people in all conditions. I do likewise devote and dedicate unto the Lord my whole self, all that I am, all that I have, and all I can do. This I do deliberately, sincerely, freely and forever." His recognition of Young's "Column of true majesty in man," in covenanting with himself, is an act sorrowfully unusual, but worthy of the man. It shows his estimate of individual effort and character; it shows his lofty aspiration and purpose, his implicit trust in the Scriptures and their Author, how a man "may be thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

His environment was unequal to his ability. He would have adorned a college professorship and won distinction as a barrister. He was a clear thinker and writer, and was held in high repute as a logician; he was among the strongest defenders of the faith in the sphere of his labors.

Felt's History of Ipswich says of him: "He fitted many pupils for college, and others for the ministry. He had a strong mind, was a noted scholar, and a pious minister." Rev. James Bradford, in Gage's History of Rowley, says: "He possessed a powerful intellect, was





an eminent scholar, and a pious and useful minister." Rev. J. F. Griswold, in New Hampshire Churches, writes: "He was a man of correct sentiments, a good scholar, and of studious habits, conscientious, of strict integrity, and had the confidence of his people." His life with his people was a constant benediction. He preached morality, by word and conduct, as fundamentally essential to a correct religious life—a life that was his. His people had great cause to rejoice in his labors and to revere his memory.

Soon after Mr. Lesslie left Linebrook, he was invited to a professorship in Dartmouth College, says a family tradition. In this regard, President Tucker of the College, 21 Feb., 1900, wrote: "I have not been able to find any trace of such appointment. This, however, is purely negative testimony, for our records from 1770 to 1780 are very meagre." We understand that the college was then engaged in making history more than in writing it. The history, however, is quite adequate to our purpose. The President, Rev. Dr. Wheelock, died 24 April, 1779, leaving the presidency, the Dartmouth pulpit and the chair of divinity vacant. The presidency was immediately occupied by the Doctor's son John, who had been educated in the college and been a tutor there, and who had been a politician of honorable distinction and an officer in the Revolutionary army; the pulpit was occupied by the eminent evangelist, Sylvanus Ripley; but the chair of theology remained vacant till 1782. Recalling now that Mr. Lesslie received proposals from Washington in September, 1779, made arrangements with Mr. Robert Mann in the first week in November, was dismissed 30 November, and left Linebrook 6 March, 1780, Mr. Lesslie and the Dartmouth professorship were brought face to face in the eye of the alert young president.

Mr. Lesslie's ability, learning, scholarship, classical repute, his school fitting for college and the ministry, his status among literary men and his Presbyterian views were a temptation to the college, and aptly support the tradition. Mr. Griswold says he declined the professorship on account of "the encouragement he had given the Washington people to settle with them." Yes, but





that "answer" or agreement with Mr. Mann in November could not be evaded. He must decline the chair.

In the fall of 1790 appeared a Catholic missionary, Rev. John Thayer, later Catholic priest of Boston. He was a native of Boston, had traveled in Europe, and sojourned in Rome. He died in Limerick, Ire., 26 Nov., 1815. Rev. Dr. Bentley's diary, Salem, Mass., March 26, 1791, says, Mr. Thayer challenged all the Protestant clergymen to a doctrinal disputation; that he announced a proposed conference with Rev. George Lesslie; that the latter did not appear—till later. Let that be so, the delay was probably occasioned by the deep snows and driving storms incident to those months in our early years.

Mr. Thayer says: \* "The occasion of my discussion with Mr. Lesslie was an advertisement I published a few weeks after I returned to my native town, 24 Nov., 1790." Mr. Thayer offered in the *Boston Gazette* to preach in any adjoining town and answer questions; he offered, 26 Jan., 1791, to preach, or debate, or print in any newspaper that would furnish space. To the last proposition the *Gazette* agreed, and "soon after" Mr. Thayer published his first paper—a statement of doctrinal belief, covering, in book form, five duo-decimo pages.

Mr. Lesslie headed his reply with this sentiment and obeyed the precept:

Unus apex verbi ratione valentior omni,  
Milleque decretis conciliisque prior.

He covered three pages. He stated the topic and the criterion. In that he was fair, judicious, wise. He proposed "The Pope's Infallibility," and announced that "No arguments will be looked upon and treated as worthy of notice but such as are evidently drawn from and grounded upon the sacred Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments."

Mr. Thayer's rejoinder covered twenty-eight pages, as if

"By apostolic blows and knocks  
He'd prove his doctrine orthodox."

\*Mr. Thayer's pamphlet may be found in the Boston Athenaeum. (Tr. B. 149, p. 393.)





He stated that Mr. Lesslie's fourth objection, which he takes for granted, is what all Catholics deny, viz.: "That the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are a complete and perfect rule of faith. On the contrary, the doctrine of our church is that the word of God is the *complete* and *perfect* rule of our faith, which word we contend is not *wholly* contained in the Scriptures, but is in part transmitted to us in the traditions of the church."

Thus the doughty challenger was vanquished by his own admission. Imagine a man discussing religion without Scripture, only as it served him. He admitted that Scripture alone did not support his dogma. He taught an insufficiency of Scripture contrary to St. Paul (2 Tim. 3: 16), and he taught traditions, as did the Jews whom Jesus rebuked (Mark 7: 7); and Mr. Lesslie retired from the contest. In October, 1811, Dr. Bentley wrote in his Diary: "Mr. Leslie's manners were singular, but Mr. Thayer, the Catholic convert, told me his mind was powerful,"—significant remark! Thayer had met Lesslie.

It is very probable that the "proposed conference" referred to above was not "proposed" by Mr. Lesslie. He might not have known of the challenge at all, since news, in dead of winter, reached Washington not oftener than monthly. He was considered strong in defence of the doctrines of his church, and was, no doubt, urged to the war of words.

Mr. Lesslie married 26 Oct., 1756, Miss Hephzibah Burpee, youngest daughter of Dea. Jonathan and Mehit-able (Jewett) Burpee of Rowley-Linebrook, Rev. Jedediah Jewett of Rowley officiating. Her parents and uncle were among the early settlers of New Brunswick,\* Canada. She was born in Rowley, 31 March, 1738, and died in Washington, N. H., 11 April, 1814. Mr. Lesslie was pastor at Washington twenty years—till he died, 11 Sept.,

\*Raymond's "Saint John River" says: Dea. Jonathan Burpee, first deacon of the Linebrook church, became also first deacon of the First church in Maugerville, N. B. His grandson David was sheriff of county Sunbury and the first school-teacher in New Brunswick. Among his descendants was Hon. Isaac Burpee, minister of customs, and E. R. Burpee, manager of the "Western Extension" railroad.





1800, when he was seventy-three years old. The town voted a headstone for his grave and the following epitaph:—

“He was a man of brilliant genius and great learning, and eminent for piety and morality.”

Dr. F. D. Leslie (No. 173) saw the stone, 18 Sept., 1904, in a good state of preservation, but tipped over, and the lot moss-covered. He set the stone in cement and seeded the ground—good for another century.

Eight of their children were born in Rowley and one died there, the ninth was born in Washington. The hours and minutes of their births are on record. On the list of these births the numbers before the months are respectively the days of the births and the baptisms. The latter were all on Sundays.

Their names are erroneously printed in Ipswich vital records, where George's birth-date is given to David, and David's birth-date and George's name are omitted.

Children of Rev. George and Hephzibah Lesslie:—

7. GEORGE, 7: 26, P. M., 12-15 Jan., 1758.
8. DAVID, 6: —, A. M., 17-17 Dec., 1758.
9. JAMES, 10: 24, A. M., 10-15 March, 1761.
10. JONATHAN, 1: —, A. M., 5-5 June, 1763.
11. WILLIAM, 3: 15, A. M., 4-10 Aug., 1766.
12. HEPHZIBAH, 3: 30, A. M., 19-25 March, 1770.
13. JOSEPH, 12: 26, —, 28 Feb.-6 March, 1774.
14. MEHITABLE, 5: —, A. M., 5-6 Sept., 1778.
15. ELIZABETH, b. 27 May, 1782; lived in Washington, where she d. in old age.





## VITAL STATISTICS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

FOR THE YEAR 1914.

### BIRTHS.

1913

- April 2. Dorothy Howard, dau. of Frederick E. and Mary H. (Lowe) Pingree.  
 July 13. Mary Severnia, dau. of Christian and Mary A. (Wilson) Simensen.  
 (Born in Salem.)  
 July 16. Dorothy Pearl, dau. of John B. and Pearl B. (Hussey) Colby. (Born  
 in Salem.)

1914

- Jan. 2. Elizabeth Peirce, dau. Everett A. and Elizabeth E. (Whitehouse)  
 Harris.  
 Jan. 11. Katharine Goldthwait, dau. of Elmer B. and Anna G. (Blaney) Thomas.  
 Mar. 1. Eleanor, dau. of Russell C. and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Smith.  
 Mar. 6. Nicholas, son of Paul and Lucy (Le Caporal) Cassessa.  
 Mar. 24. Anjolina, dau. of Giovanni and Leone (—) De Cortis.  
 June 13. Antoinette, dau. of Joseph and Consetta (Paglia) Landolphe.  
 July 28. James Kenneth, son of Manuel F. and Josie (MacDougall) Castle.  
 Aug. 5. Katherine, dau. of Edmond and Rose (Ross) Nadeau.  
 Aug. 7. Lilli Mary Margaret, dau. of L. Richard and Lilli Sarah Katherine  
 (Halbert) Peterson.  
 Sept. 7. James Herbert, son of James F. and Mildred E. (Towne) Morissey.  
 Sept. 21. John S., son of John S. and Emma (Atherton) Lawrence.  
 Oct. 22. Joseph, son of Antonio and Filomena S. (Nicola) Scoglio.  
 Oct. 23. Benjamin Franklin, son of George A. and Emma A. (Burbank) Lord.  
 Dec. 1. Robert Gordon, son of Karl Gordon and Daisy Belle (Brown) Smerage.  
 Dec. 6. Mary, dau. of Peter and Margaret Anna (Frizzell) Anderson.  
 Dec. 18. Catherine, dau. of Henry Follansbee and Margaret (Pingree) Long.  
 Dec. 27. John Harding, son of Morris John and Mary Anne (Bennett) Brown.





# MARRIAGES.

1914

- Feb. 4. Edward J. Prest (Bristol, R.I.), son of William and Rebecca (Morton) Prest.  
Sarah L. Balch (Topsfield), dau. of Rodney D. and Susan I. (Adams) Perkins.
- April 1. Joseph Broomhead (Attleboro), son of John and Hannah (Higginbotham) Broomhead.  
Ina M. Needham (Topsfield), dau. of Alfred and Mary (Leonard) Thompson.
- May 23. Clinton O. Ingraham (Topsfield), son of Obed and Cassie (Etheridge) Ingraham.  
Rena A. Palmer (Topsfield), dau. of Philip and Carrie F. (Merrill) Palmer.
- May 23. Charles O. Leach (Boston), son of Ralph H. and Elizabeth (Ketchum) Leach.  
Abbie A. Welch (Topsfield), dau. of C. Frank and Emma (Wallace) Welch.
- June 9. Joseph N. Smith (Topsfield), son of Joseph N. and Sarah (Fuller) Smith.  
Lillie C. Silver (Salem), dau. of William and Silvia (Clark) Silver. (Married in Salem.)
- Oct. 1. Orin W. Stevens (Groveland), son of Orin W. and Susan R. (Jackson) Stevens.  
Emma F. Perkins (Topsfield), dau. of Walter M. and Mary A. (Page) Scates.
- Oct. 5. Ernest L. Gilmore (Attleboro), son of William H. and Arma W. (Lane) Gilmore.  
Margaret A. Treen (Attleboro), dau. of Lewis and Agnes (Langille) Treen.
- Oct. 14. Peter J. Kilhouley (Topsfield), son of Peter C. and Nellie (McKeag) Kilhouley.  
Sarah F. McKeever (Salem), dau. of Joseph and Bridget M. (Tansy) McKeever. (Married in Salem.)
- Oct. 21. Thomas E. Elliott (Topsfield), son of James A. and Abbie P. (Lake) Elliott.  
M. Violet Towne (Topsfield), dau. of Frank H. and Mary B. (Richardson) Towne.
- Oct. 28. Charles S. Duckworth (Topsfield), son of William H. and Jane (Stewart) Duckworth.  
Josephine M. Carey (Boston), dau. of James and — (—) Carey. (Married in Boston.)
- Dec. 9. Max Kratz (Topsfield), son of William and Wilhelmine (Hensgen) Kratz.  
Rosie Beck (Topsfield), dau. of Henry and Christina (Schuler) Beck.
- Dec. 24. Benjamin C. Butterick (Topsfield), son of William H. and Louisa A. (Payzant) Butterick.  
Bernice M. Stoddard (Athol), dau. of Harry S. and Effie (Totman) Stoddard. (Married in Athol.)
- Dec. 31. John R. Osborne (Loudon, N. H.), son of John S. and Rachel J. (Brown) Osborne.  
Alice Ropes Smith (Topsfield), dau. of Augustus W. and Harriet B. (Shaw) Smith.



# DEATHS.

- 1914
- Feb. 12. John Batchelder, son of Silas and Phebe (Batchelder) Lake, aged 92 yrs., 9 mos., 5 dys.
- Feb. 22. William, son of William and Ann (Simpson) Spencer, aged 84 yrs., 5 mos., 11 dys.
- Mar. 27. Caroline Augusta, widow of James L. Prescott and dau. of Augustus and Eliza (Hovey) Adams, aged 80 yrs., 3 mos.
- April 24. Mary L., widow of Caleb K. Perkins and dau. of Joel R. and Mary (Safford) Peabody, aged 82 yrs., 2 mos., 22 dys.
- April 28. Mary Louisa, wife of Joseph H. Fuller and dau. of Porter B. and Harriet L. (Fish) Peabody, aged 36 yrs., 6 mos., 15 dys.
- May 6. Alvin Fowler, son of Samuel and Sophronia A. (Dodge) Day, aged 53 yrs., 7 mos., 28 dys.
- May 8. Joachim, son of Fritz and Sophia (Smith) Stark, aged 76 yrs., 8 mos., 29 dys.
- May 25. Albert, son of David and Lydia (Elwell) Lane, aged 67 yrs., 6 mos., 13 dys.
- June 1. Henry Merrill, son of Elisha P. and Abigail C. (Foster) Andrews, aged 56 yrs., 4 mos., 4 dys.
- June 2. Eliza Jane, wife of John J. Watson and dau. of Ephraim and Sophronia (Cole) Perkins, aged 47 yrs., 6 mos., 20 dys.
- July 21. Esther Maria, dau. of Josiah and Betsey (Gould) Gould, aged 77 yrs., 5 mos., 21 dys.
- Aug. 6. Sarah Jane, widow of Francis E. Hadley and dau. of Silas and Mary (Trefeathern) Cochrane, aged 83 yrs., 8 mos., 8 dys.
- Sept. 21. John S., son of John S. and Emma (Atherton) Lawrence, aged 15 min.
- Nov. 28. Levi Leach, son of John W. and Sarah J. (Ricker) Beal, aged 65 yrs., 9 mos., 19 dys.
- Dec. 25. Alphonso Taylor, son of Eben S. and Elizabeth Ann (Lester) Merrill, aged 69 yrs., 8 mos., 25 dys.

## Deaths in other places, interment in Topsfield.

- 1914
- Jan. 8. Nathaniel Foster, died in Hamilton, Mass., aged 83 yrs. 1 mo., 2 dys.
- Jan. 18. Thomas F. Ferguson, died in Danvers, Mass., aged 81 yrs., 5 mos. 25 dys.
- Feb. 26. Cora F. Means, died in Chelsea, Mass., aged 41 yrs., 5 mos., 5 dys.
- Mar. 31. Edwin K. Foster, died in Wakefield, Mass., aged 76 yrs., 1 mo., 8 dys.
- May 17. Margaret Perkins, died in Boston, Mass., aged 73 yrs., 7 mos., 9 dys.
- June 23. Helen E. Peabody, died in Essex, Mass., aged 73 yrs., 3 mos., 14 dys.
- June 25. Sarah J. Fiske, died in Salem, Mass., aged 60 yrs.
- July 26. Zola G. Finch, died in Boston, Mass., aged 6 hrs.





## CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS IN TOPSFIELD IN 1914.

1914

- January 16. House warming of the "Parson Capen House" by the Topsfield Historical Society.
- February. Depth of snow averaged about 18 inches, the greatest for a number of years.
- April. Rev. Philip Deschner of Texas, appointed pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church.
- April 24. Rev. Arthur H. Gilmore of Chicago, Ill. ordained and installed pastor of the Congregational Church.
- June. Regular mission services of the Roman Catholic Church began to be held in the Grange Hall.
- July 25. Soldier's monument (bequest of Justin Allen, M. D.) dedicated.
- August. Warren B. Lyman of Hudson, Mass., elected principal of the High School.
- Sept. 22-23. Annual cattle show of the Essex Agricultural Society.
- October 4. The Peabody-Young house and barn, off North Street, owned by Thomas E. Proctor, and of late occupied by Italian workmen, destroyed by fire.

## BUILDINGS CONSTRUCTED DURING THE YEAR 1914.

- Peter Anderson, High St.; garage.
- Andrew L. Peirce, Central St.; dwelling house.
- Miss Fanny F. Peirce, Central St.; dwelling house.
- Manley D. White, Pine St.; garage remodelled.
- Howard Ford, Pine St.; addition to barn.
- Charles J. Peabody, Wenham St.; small barn.
- Charles R. Waitt, Main St.; garage.
- Thomas W. Peirce, Boston St.; garage moved from the Rea Farm to the Peirce farm.
- Thomas E. Proctor, off Perkins St.; the old Bradstreet house remodelled.
- Pasquale Dagsteno, Pemberton St.; dwelling house.
- Robert Roberto, Main St.; addition to dwelling house.
- Ralph D. Hood, Pond St.; old Woodbury ice houses torn down.
- C. Harry Shoemaker, The Turnpike; carriage house removed and remodelled into a dwelling house.





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